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WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR edf ENERGY London and South of England Media Awards

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk August 9, 2015

North & West edition No 672

POLITICS

Sex probe into former PM

Sir Edward Heath centre of fresh allegations

HORTICULTURE

Meet the plant that blooms once a century

And has grown 30ft in just three months

SPORT

Crowds flock to cricket festival

Kent enjoy the sun as women prepare for Ashes duel

EXCLUSIVE

Solution for Stack 'is near'

After Manston confirmed as stop-gap, KCC insist major plan being finalised

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Manston Stack decision is completely pointless

THE decision to trumpet the use of Manston Airport as some form of short-term easing to the chaos of Operation Stack may yet prove to be as useful to the county as the proverbial chocolate tea-pot.

Not only will Manston only be used if a huge stretch of the coast-bound M20 is rammed with parked-up lorries, but on the rare occasions when that is the case (and let us not forget that over the last month of problems extending it to the London-bound stretch happened for just a handful of days) the process of taking potentially hundreds of HGVs to Thanet will ensure even more traffic headaches.

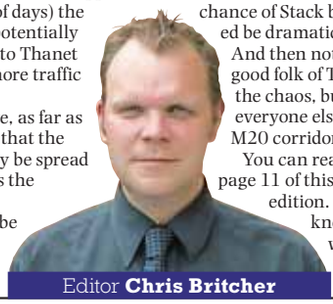
All it will achieve, as far as it would appear, is that the gridlock will simply be spread more evenly across the county.

In fact, it would be easy to imagine this foolish, poorly thought out plan, is designed merely to create some easy headlines to make it look like something is happening.

All of which, of course, is distracting us from the fact that this is merely a symptom of a problem and not the cause. Stack has been so horrific this year because of the unusual case of industrial action at Calais combining with a far more aggressive approach from migrants in terms of the manner in which they seek entry to the UK. Only when both issues are resolved will the chance of Stack being implemented be dramatically reduced.

And then not only will the good folk of Thanet be saved the chaos, but so will everyone else living along the M20 corridor.

You can read a full report on page 11 of this weekend's edition. And please let us know your views by writing into us. Our letters page is inside.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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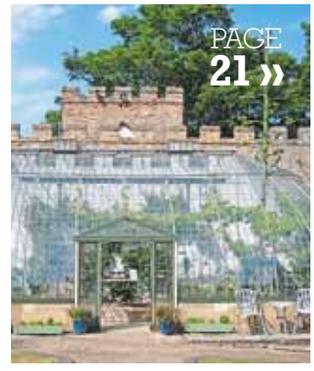

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Security stepped up after migrant found in tunnel

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

INVADED: Services were once again disrputed this week after nightly storming of the tunnel terminal

HOLIDAYMAKERS trying to reach France via the Channel Tunnel faced delays of up to four hours on Tuesday after a migrant apparently attempted to walk its entire 31-mile length in a bid to reach the UK.

In what was just the latest of weeks of problems at the cross-Channel terminals, services on Eurotunnel and Eurostar were held up as tunnel chiefs conducted a full search after alarms were triggered.

A man was then apparently found just a few miles from the Cheriton exit of the tunnel.

It once again underlined a growing crisis in Calais which, despite steps to tighten security, is still seeing desperate migrants risking their lives in a bid to stowaway on lorries or trains in order to reach the UK.

Security has been dramatically increased in an effort to prevent the now nightly storming of the terminal, and Eurotunnel says figures have dropped from a peak of several thousands attempts last month to around 400 a night this week.

However, with an estimated 3,000 migrants still camping at Calais, waiting for a chance to cross to the UK, there seems little hope the situation will ease anytime soon.

One report in a national newspaper this week suggested the Government was even considering closing the tunnel overnight in a bid to stop the wave of inflitrations.

A Government spokesman said: "We have and continue to consider all potential courses of action to improve security at the Channel Tunnel in Coquelles and to prevent any loss of life. A number of new security measures have been introduced and ministers both here and in France keep the situation under constant review."

There had been some concerns that the delays would see yet another return of Operation Stack, as HGVs began to back up onto the M20 when services were suspended.

Stack itself had a rare week off, although remained in the headlines after it was confirmed that Manston Airport's runway would be used as a temporary lorry park (see full details on page 11).

A Sudanese man, 40, appeared before Medway Magistrates on Thursday and will appear before Canterbury Crown Court later this month, charged with an obstruction to an engine or carriage using the railway.

Policing costs for Stack will be met by central government, PCC says

IN the week that Manston Airport was confirmed as an alternative to turning the M20 into a giant lorry park when Operation Stack is brought into force (see page 11 for full report), there was at least some good news for the county's taxpayers.

Police and crime commissioner Ann Barnes confirmed on Thursday Kent will get 'fair funding' towards the cost of policing Stack over recent weeks.

Mrs Barnes has repeatedly argued that local people, already overwhelmed by the disruption brought on by Operation Stack, should not be paying for their police officers working round the clock to mitigate a national crisis. Especially when set against a back drop of a continued drop in funding.

She said: "It is my duty to make sure the chief constable has sufficient resources to police the whole of Kent. Operation Stack has been a very significant drain on those resources so far.

"If there is further disruption and - as the Department for Transport has decided - Operation Stack is used in tandem with the former Manston Airport site, this will inevitably require significant additional resources that will have to be paid for.

"So I'm very pleased and extremely relieved to announce the government will meet all reasonable, additional costs the force incurs in dealing with this ongoing problem – the policing of Operation Stack as well as the costs associated with assisting the Home Office immigration officers in dealing with suspected illegal immigrants.

"I've been asked whether I am sure that, once the current political maelstrom dies down, central Government will keep its promise to reimburse the people of Kent? My answer to that is I've been dealing with honourable people at the highest level of the Home Office so I'm quite sure they'll keep their word."

Raid by terrorism officers sees 23-year-old arrested

POLICE sought to reassure the local community after a planned raid on a house in Rochester by the South East Counter Terrorism Unit (SECTU), saw one man taken into custody and then released on bail.

The 23-year-old was arrested on Thursday morning on suspicion of supporting a banned organisation under section 12 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and taken in for questioning.

The raid was conducted by SECTU officers and Kent Police.

Detective Chief Inspector Keith Roberts of Kent Police, said: "I would like to reassure the community that this investigation should have very little impact on local residents. The arrest was pre-planned and was not made in response to any immediate threat to public safety."

Major survey takes place on state of our fishing industry

INSPECTORS have spent the week visiting ports around the Kent coast as part of an annual economic survey into the UK fishing fleet.

Organised by Seafish, the organisation that promotes the British seafood industry, they made their way around the coast starting in Hastings, in East Sussex, and working round to Whitstable.

They spoke to vessel owners and skippers from all sectors of the industry to collect data on fishing and vessel costs. It will then allow economists to build up a clear picture of the UK fleet's economic performance.

The results, to be published in 2016, are intended to guide policy makers' understanding of any changes to fishing management measures.

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Dartford Crossing closures due to engineering

MOTORISTS are being advised of work taking place on the Dartford Crossing this week, which will see the bridge and tunnels closed during certain periods.

The southbound exit slip road at the A282 junction 1a at Swanscombe will be closed overnight from Monday for five nights. The northbound slip road will also be shut on August 14 and 16.

The two tunnels will also be closed overnight, with the east tunnel being shut to traffic between Monday and Thursday and then again on Saturday. The west tunnel will be shut on Friday and Sunday.

The QEII Bridge, will have three lanes closed overnight, between 10pm and 5.30am, from Monday and also on Sunday. Diversion routes will be in place.

Work on £2.65m town centre improvements to start later this month

By Jamie Weir
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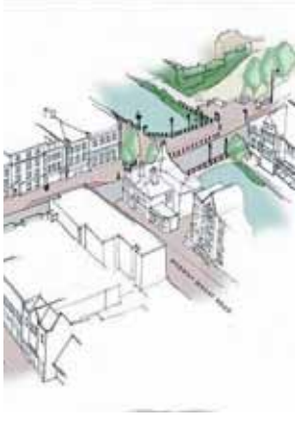
AFTER a number of false dawns, the first phase of a major multi-million pound redevelopment of Tonbridge High Street will get finally get underway later this month.

The project aims to solve long-time problems along the busy street, to make it a more welcoming place for shoppers, thus boosting trade and the local economy, while trying to ease the congestion which can leave it clogged.

The £2.65m project is being delivered by Kent County Council and Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council. Starting on August 17, works will see widening and resurfacing of pavements, new delivery areas, a 20mph zone introduced and improvements to the road surface.

The work takes place between the Vale Road roundabout and the Big Bridge. Work should be completed by April 2016.

Matthew Balfour, KCC cabinet member for environment and transport said: "We are excited to be moving ahead with this work which will give Tonbridge a first class High Street infrastructure and support its ongoing regeneration. As well as a more welcoming look, it will be a lot more pedestrian friendly, with less congestion and improved air quality.



PLANS: Impressions of scheme

"Starting work is a real milestone following months of preparation, working together with Tonbridge residents and businesses. We'll continue to keep those affected updated throughout and we will aim to cause as little disruption to businesses and residents as we can."

Traffic lights will be put in place during the work near the Vale Road Roundabout. As work progresses the High Street will be made into a one-way area, with southbound traffic diverted via Bordyke, Hadlow Road, Cannon Lane and Vale Road.

Work will temporarily cease between November 22 and January 3 2016 in order to minimise the effect on local businesses during the busy Christmas shopping period.

The town was delivered a major blow last year after supermarket giant Sainsbury's pulled the plug on a proposed £70m regneration scheme which would have transformed the town centre.

RACE: Secure your university place

Are you ready for A-Level results day?

STUDENTS across the county will be nervously awaiting the A-Level results, which are published this Thursday.

And the message for those who don't get the results expected is 'do not panic'.

Many need certain grades to get a university place. Better, or worse, than expected and you may have to enter clearing as the race for the final university spots get underway.

The University of Kent's head of recruitment and admissions, Steve Holdcroft, says it's important to keep your calm. He explains: "Don't panic but do get yourself organised

"Each year thousands of students go through clearing and gain a university place on a course on which they are happy.

"This year demand for places will be even higher, so it's more important than ever to be prepared.

"Make your shortlist of universities and courses and call the clearing team as soon as possible on results day. You can check the full list of university vacancies published in the national newspapers or use the web. The UCAS website is a great place to start your search - it carries up-to-date vacancies as well as links to university sites."

Visit Ucas' website at www.ucas.com to find out more about the clearing system.

Rapist who abused teenage girl is jailed

A 68-year-old who raped and abused a teenage girl on multiple occasions in the 1980s has been jailed for 15 years.

Edward Watson, 68, formerly of Kippington Road, Sevenoaks, was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on Tuesday having pleaded guilty to six counts of rape and four counts of indecent assault.

The abuse began in 1982 when the girl was aged 13, and continued until 1985.

Investigating officer Detective Constable Deniz Aslan said: "These are very serious offences which are reflected in the length of time Watson will now spend behind bars.

"I would like to pay tribute to the victim in this case who displayed tremendous courage in coming forward and reporting the crimes committed against her, and for her invaluable support in bringing Watson to justice.

"Kent Police takes all reports of historic sexual abuse seriously."

Arrests made thanks to 'predictive policing'

POLICE using 'predictive policing' say they managed to secure a number of significant breakthroughs after taking to the streets of Medway.

Predictive policing uses data to identify troubled areas and where and when crimes may take place.

Joined by Medway Council community wardens, environmental enforcement, licensing, HMRC and Kent Fire and Rescue Service police recovered a suspected stolen motorcycle in the Luton area, arrested a woman on suspicion of robbery and found another suspected motorcycle on fire.

In addition, a Chatham off-licence was found to be breaching their licence conditions by selling super strength alcohol and another shop was found to be selling non-duty paid alcohol. Both shops will now have their licences reviewed.

Sergeant Adam Duke, who coordinated the day said: "We patrol the streets like this regularly. However it was useful to be out and about with our partner agencies, and joining together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour."

Boats sail back into action at Bewl Water

SAILING returned to Bewl Water this week - a month after the previous sailing club operating at the reservoir collapsed.

Sailors were able to once again take their craft out onto the picturesque body of water at Lamberhurst, near Tunbridge Wells.

Boats had been removed after Bewl Valley Sailing Club slumped into administration. It cited soaring rental costs as the reason for having to pull the plug.

Bewl Water Boating is now operating a lease from Southern Water, which owns the reservoir, to provide recreational activities at the site.

Conservative MP for Tunbridge Wells, Greg Clark, welcomed sailing's return.

He said: "Bewl Water is an important local recreational centre and it was regrettable the sailing club went into administration.

"I am pleased that Bewl Water Boating has acted to get sailing back up and running again during this summer - for many local people boating at Bewl is an important pastime."

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Kent cops confirm they are probing Ted Heath sex claim

By Sarah Linney
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A FRESH probe into allegations of child abuse involving former prime minister Sir Edward Heath is to be launched, it was confirmed this week - with Kent Police one of five forces involved.

The late politician, who died in 2005 at his home in Wiltshire aged 89, was born in Broadstairs and represented the constituency of Bexley between 1950 and 2001. He served as PM between 1970 and 1974.

Kent has become involved following a report it received on Tuesday of a sexual assault having been committed in the east of the county during the 1960s.

Kent joins Wiltshire, the Met, Hampshire and Jersey in investigating the politican in what is known as Operation Hydrant - which is taking place across the nation probing allegations of historial abuse by high profile figures.

In a statement, Kent Police said: "The victim has named Sir Edward Heath in connection with the allegation. Detectives are making initial enquiries, and will obtain a full account from the victim.".

It comes after the Independent Police Complaints Commission said on Monday it is to investigate whether allegations made against the former PM in the 1990s were not followed up, as has been claimed by a retired detective.

INVESTIGATED: The late Sir Edward Heath. Picture: ALLAN WARREN

It's also investigating whether a criminal case was dropped when a person involved made claims about the Conservative politician. An IPCC spokesman said: "It is alleged that a criminal prosecution was not pursued when a person threatened to expose that Sir Edward may have been involved in offences concerning children.

"In addition to this allegation, the IPCC will examine whether Wiltshire Police subsequently took any steps to investigate these claims."

The Sir Edward Heath Charitable Foundation, which runs the museum at Arundells, his former home in Salisbury, said it welcomed the investigation.

"We wholeheartedly believe it will clear Sir Edward's name and we will co-operate fully with the police in their inquiries," a spokesman said.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police.

Jail for dropping an 'N-Bomb' into drink

A 25-year-old man from Gillingham who spiked a woman's drink at Maidstone's Source Bar has been sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison.

Tadas Rasciauskas, of Rock Avenue, slipped a powerful hallucinogenic substance into the drink of his victim, but was spotted by her friend who raised the alarm. Tests showed he was using the banned NBOMBe substance - often referred to as an 'N-Bomb'.

Recycling bank blow as facilities removed

RECYCLING banks provided by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council at the former Homebase site in Tonbridge are to be removed by August 12 at the request of the land owner.

Alternative facilities can be found in the B&Q car park, Cannon Lane, and car parks on Sovereign Way and The Angel Centre.

Lottery email scam

TRADING Standards is warning residents in the Kent area of an email scam which claims receipients have won £825,000 in the People's Postcode Lottery.

To claim the prize money it says to ring a telephone number listed in the mail. When you ring the number, you are asked to pay a release fee which can be anything between £200 and £4,000.

Organisers confirm no venue change for War and Peace

ORGANISERS of the War and Peace Revival have finally put an end to rumours the event may be moving from its current home, confirming it will remain at Folkestone Racecourse for a fourth year.

Huge crowds flocked to the track at Westenhanger for the annual gathering of military vehicles and memorabilia at the end of last month - despite problems caused by Operation Stack.

But since it was announced new owner John Allision, who also runs the British Shooting Show, was taking over the reigns next year, there has been speculation it might be moved - possibly even back to its former home at the Hop Farm in Paddock Wood.

This week organisers confirmed the five-day event will be back from July 20, 2016, at the racecourse - and promised new features.

Mr Allison said: "We have received valuable feedback from both visitors and exhibitors and welcome their input to help us grow this event further and increase its visitor appeal."

Mr Allison took over the show, along with business partner Annie Betrand, from long-time organiser Rex Cadman.

CPRE fury at Faversham development proposals

COUNTRYSIDE campaign group CPRE Kent has been left fuming after a new development was proposed near Faversham.

The charity, the local branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, says that the plans for a 100 bed hotel, and over 300 new homes on land at Perry Court Farm would be an incursion into open countryside, branding them 'urban sprawl'.

The site lies some way from Faversham's urban boundary, on valuable 'grade one' agricultural land, which CPRE Kent says will be needed to produce food in the future.

The site, put forward by Hallam Land Management, is located between the turn-off for the A251 to Ashford and the Abbey School.

Brian Lloyd, senior planner at CPRE Kent, said: "We fail to see how a site, significantly detached from the existing town, would contribute to the current compact nature of Faversham. It is an illogical and arbitrary incursion of the town into the open countryside.

"It is a deliberate attempt to pre-empt and undermine the emerging Local Plan by seeking to secure the development of a site that is not allocated in the adopted Local Plan and has been rejected by the council for inclusion."

A spokesman for the developers said: "No other location in Faversham offers the same opportunity to provide a variety of good quality space for employers in a location that is easily accessed from the town and from the motorway."

Fallon in visit to Kabul

SEVENOAKS MP and defence minister Michael Fallon has praised troops working towards a more peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan, as he visited Kabul this week.

He made the visit 10 months after combat operations were limited as part of a gradual withdrawal of ground troops.

Make sure you can vote

MAIDSTONE Borough Council is urging all residents to ensure they ensure they update their details on the electoral register.

A form is being sent out to homes in the borough ahead of next May's local elections and voting for the police and crime commissioner elections.

Drug dealer gets jail term

A DRUG dealer who lashed out at police after being caught in possession of crack cocaine and heroin has been jailed for three years and two months.

Kevin Mamongo, 23, from Croydon, attempted to escape after being pulled over in Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, last month.

Hunt for stolen pet dogs

POLICE are appealing for information after two Akita dogs were reported stolen from a house in Horton Kirby, Sevenoaks.

They were swiped between 7.30pm and 9.30pm on August 1 in Carleton Place..

Anyone with information should call 01622 604100.

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1. Spitfire crash probe

What caused plane to plummet at airport?

2. Stack route confirmed

Precise route should Manston be called on

3. Edward Heath probe

Former PM in fresh allegations

The Essential Guide:

Operation Stack

Everything you ever wanted to know

FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Our photographer caught all the atmosphere at Canterbury during festival week at the headquarters of Kent County Cricket Club. See more on page 12.

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Top Three Blogs

1. Backseat driver rage

And why it will soon be a thing of the past

2. Support for Caitlyn Jenner

But what an unusual way of showing it

3. Whitstable's dilemma

Is it too big for its boots?

Results of the *KoS* Online Poll

Is Manston right place for Op Stack lorry park?

1. **Yes - 14 %**
2. **No - 82 %**
3. **Depends on route - 3 %**
4. **Don't know 1 %**

WINGHAM
WILDLIFE
PARK
SEE OUR FAMOUS
HANDS ON TALKS
THIS YEARS BABIES:
LEMURS, WHITE PORCUPINE, RED
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TRANSFORMED: However, despite all the furore over Manston's selection, the chances are it would rarely be used if Operation Stack comes into force as the M20 continues to take the strain

Whiplash over Stack at Manston plans as full solution accelerates

Jamie Weir on how hopes of a genuine answer to ease Operation Stack is now very much top priority

MOUNTING concerns over the use of Manston Airport as an overspill for lorries during Operation Stack have accelerated discussions about establishing a long-term solution.

And with national government now only too aware of the negative impact it is having on the county - after apparently ignoring it for weeks - it appears a proper plan could be on the horizon with discussions now a priority, according to Kent traffic chief Matthew Balfour.

The portfolio holder for environment and transport at Kent County Council said Manston was far from an ideal solution to the gridlock when Operation Stack is implemented on the M20. He told KoS that KCC had previously investigated the former airport as one option, rejecting it on the grounds it would not be 'easy'.

But this week it was confirmed as an option by the Department of Transport. However, it will only be used in exceptional circumstances as the first stages of Operation Stack will still see the M20 between Leeds Castle at Maidstone, and Westenhanger, near Folkestone, closed first.

Cllr Balfour told KoS: "It was not a site initiated by KCC. It's a long way from the Channel Tunnel, and a long way from Dover. The county's transport infrastructure isn't ideal for getting large numbers of lorries down to that part of Kent."

Thankfully, says Cllr Balfour, who spoke exclusively to KoS, a long term solution is likely to be just around the corner.

He said: "I can't tell you what the long term solution being worked on is, but what I can say is medium and long term solutions are being progressed, in the prime minister's word, at a pace. Nobody is letting the grass grow under their feet, you can be assured of that. It's close."

The emergency plans mean Manston Airport will provide parking spaces for between 1,500 to 2,000 lorries.

It would be introduced to prevent - as occured recently, a stretch of the London-bound M20 being closed too, between Ashford and Maidstone. But that's a rarity.

Biggest concerns this week were over the impact of lorries being taken off the M20 and then transported to Manston Airport. It closed last May despite efforts by a vocal local group to keep it operational.

Freight would be sent via the M20 to junction seven, Maidstone, where it would be diverted up Detline Hill, the A249, then along the M2, and A299 Thanet Way to Manston if coming from the west. If travelling from the Dartford Crossing, freight would use the A2, M2 and A299 to reach the emergency parking. Any Channel Tunnel bound traffic would stay on the M20.

Once Operation Stack ends, freight parked at Manston would use the A256 and A2 to Dover. That route is a concern for Cllr Balfour.

He said: "The A256 is fragile in terms of imposing large numbers of heavy vehicles. It will require police to be at every junction, and on every roundabout to ensure traffic can flow. I think everybody is very concerned it may not work."

HOPEFUL: Cllr Balfour says a permanent solution is close

The infrastructure issues are something which have caused concern for Manston Airport's owners as well.

A spokesman for the owners, who have long term plans to redevelop the site with a major housing, commercial and leisure scheme.

They told KoS: "We have stated all along there are clear logistical problems that will need to be overcome and that disruption to locals must be kept at a minimum. That said, when the government asks for help, it is incumbent upon us all to do what we can."

It seems that the airport is far from many people's ideal location, with business turning against the idea just hours after it was announced by the transport minister.

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) has long been a vocal critic of the damage which Operation Stack - which is implemented when traffic is unable to cross the English Channel - has done to businesses across the county.

Alison Parmar, the FSB's business development manager in Kent, told KoS that the use of Manston was likely to cause problems for Thanet's businesses. She said: "People who may have gone down to the seaside are likely to think, 'do I really want to go and get stuck in miles of traffic', and yes, there is a really good chance it'll cause problems for businesses in Thanet.

"We're sick of temporary measures which don't last. We want the Government to come up with a long term workable solution which helps small businesses get back to normal.

"Most small businesses are adaptable, and can deal with Operation Stack for a few days at a time. The problem comes when it is implemented repeatedly over the course of weeks - it seriously disrupts them, and has done real damage to some at a time of year when they would normally do their best business. That's unacceptable, and we now need a proper, long term solution which works for businesses across all of Kent, whether they're in Thanet, or elsewhere."

It's a sentiment echoed by others, with Ruth Bailey - who stood for the Thanet South constituency in the general election for the Manston Airport Independence Party - telling KoS it would 'suffocate' businesses in the area.

Ms Bailey said: "It'll destroy the tourism industry in this area at the height of the season, and the problems that suffocation of business will bring is going to get a lot of people very angry."

The Broadstairs resident has campaigned to bring Manston Airport back into use after it closed with the loss of around 150 local jobs in May of last year.

She said: "We feel utterly let down by the government, and betrayed after all of the promises which had been made in the run up to the election. Senior politicians pledged to bring it back as an airport, so it's disgraceful that those same people are now announcing it should become a lorry park."

And Ms Bailey is not the only one to harbour concerns. North Thanet and Thanet South Conservative MPs Sir Roger Gale and Craig Mackinlay were united in their condemation of the scheme, with Mr Mackinlay saying the root of the problem had to be addressed with urgency.

Mr Mackinlay said "I am bitterly disappointed at this decision; I hope it will be short-lived. The route of this crisis starts thousands of miles away, but French authorities need to do significantly more to keep this fundamental border running smoothly."

Eurotunnel's director of public affairs, John Keefe, told KoS the situation had improved.

He said: "The French and British governments have provided us with resources we need to combat the situation, and keep the tunnel secured.

"That means we've been able to keep up a robust freight schedule, and keep things moving."

"A massive amount of the UK's freight travels through Kent, and this recent period of instability has really highlighted the importance of this key trade route."

FESTIVAL: The players - and the crowd - got to play on the hallowed turf during cricket week.
All pictures: ADY KERRY

Ashes Test delight as week hits 164no

It is the world's oldest cricket festival and after a week of Kent action, England's women take on Australia on Tuesday

CROWDS flocked to revel in the 164th edition of county cricket's longest running festival this week, as Canterbury celebrated with a feast of cricket.

The famous marquees ringed the county club's headquarters with the action including a 50-over matches against Sussex Sharks last Sunday, which Kent won by eight wickets, a four-day County Championship clash with Northamptonshire, which Kent lost by an innings and 23 runs and was all over within three days, and concluded this Saturday with another one-day game against Lancashire Lightning.

Ladies Day on Wednesday was blessed with good weather, and the rain held off to ensure a full week of action. As our photographs demonstrate.

The Kent Cricket Supporters' Club laid a wreath in memory of the ground's famous fallen lime tree at the start of the four-day game, with collections taking place during yesterday's match for the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust.

And the excitement levels are set to mount again this week as England's women come to the historic St Lawrence ground as they look to retain the Ashes against Australia.

Unlike the men's Ashes, the women's series is competed for over a combination of Twenty20, one day internationals and one Test match – and that takes place at Canterbury from Tuesday until Friday.

The women's results are calculated on points for each result. Australia currently lead 4-2, but there are four points up for grabs during this week's Test, which means Canterbury could be the turning point.

Kent players Charlotte Edwards, Lydia Greenway and Laura Marsh have all been named in the England squad for the Test against Australia.

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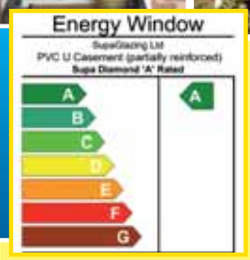

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Get bee-side the beehive as event focuses on their magic

Molly Kersey

Bees and how we should never underestimate their contribution to our complicated eco-system

THE humble bee has had a tough of time of it of late. With its numbers in decline, only relatively recently has there been a wider comprehension of just how essential they are to our eco-system.

So it is perhaps a little overdue that there is now an annual celebration of the winged insect and the vitally important world of the honey bee.

And later this month, the free, family-friendly, Kent Festival of Bees will return for a third year to celebrate the creatures with a string of special events at Highland Court Farm, near Bridge, at Canterbury.

Featuring everything from candle-rolling, face painting and specialist talks, it aims to provide something for people of all ages to enjoy.

But at its heart lies a serious message.

Bees are in trouble and there are steps that we all can take to help them.

"Globally, beekeepers have been reporting that for the past 15 years bee numbers, and the number of beekeepers, have been declining and colony losses are increasing," said festival organiser Melodie Webster.

"Bees are really struggling at the moment and we are hoping to raise public awareness of that."

The festival has a programme of short and interactive talks about bees and their importance in terms of their role as pollinators, as well as a storytelling session for children.

Bees are facing a number of threats such as starvation and poor nutrition, viruses and attacks from pathogens and environmental changes such as habitat fragmentation and loss.

"The threats to bees include over-mechanised farming, pesticides and a lack of bee keepers," said Ms Webster.

"There will be an exchange of ideas on what we can do to support the bee population including buying honey from local beekeepers, planting bee-friendly plants, adopting bee friendly farming practices, persuading local authorities to reduce the grass verge cutting and educating our children on how to love and respect the honeybee."

There will also be a number of stalls selling local produce including honey, beeswax candles and bee-friendly plants.

Ms Webster adds: "On the day here will also be demonstrations on how to safely handle bees.

"There is no point in us preaching to the converted so we choose the talk topics so they have got some public interest - such as how the health of the honeybee and our own health and wellbeing are intertwined. There is the saying that human beings would last about four years if the honey bee disappeared.

BUZZ: Family fun at Highland Court Farm

"We are producing a lot more hand outs for people to take away on the day, which tells you about how to create a bee friendly environment."

Those behind the festival are keen to stress the importance of bees and all that they do.

Ms Webster said: "Beekeeping is an ancient tradition, and honeybees have been kept in Europe for several millennia.

"Bees are critically important in the environment, sustaining biodiversity by providing essential pollination for a wide range of crops and wild plants; in fact 70 per cent of our food crops need to be pollinated.

"Bees contribute to human health and well-being directly through the production of honey and other food and feed supplies such as pollen, wax for food processing, propolis in food technology, and royal jelly as a dietary supplement and ingredient in food."

They are keen to reach younger audiences too, and hope that the storytelling sessions will help to get children interested in bees, and how to protect them.

"The storytelling session has been commissioned to attract families with young children in particular, and to engage these youngsters in learning about the symbiotic relationship between the honeybee and humans." said Ms Webster.

The festival has been going from strength to strength since it was created by European di-

> The threats to bees include mechanised farming, pesticides and a lack of bee keepers Bees are really struggling... we want to raise public awareness

Melodie Webster
Organiser, Kent Festival of Bees

VITAL: The ability to pollinate is essential to so many aspects of production that without it we could face a farming crisis

rector of Mann Lake Patrick Murfet - who has kept bees for more than a decade.

"It has been running for three years," explained Ms Webster. "Patrick Murfet has been a bee keeper for 15 years and he is now a bee farmer, which means he has over 40 hives, so it's on a much bigger scale.

"He started bee keeping as a hobby and he turned it into a business, and the festival is about sharing the joy of bees with the public."

The number of people attending the festival has seen an increase, and organisers hope that this year will see the highest number of visitors yet.

"In the first year we had 400 peo

Turn to page 16

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Turn from page 15

ple. Last year, despite the pouring rain, we had 600. We are expecting around 1,000 people this year," said Ms Webster.

And Ms Webster said that a huge amount of what makes the festival accessible to people is that it's free.

"It's a free day out for the public and that is a big draw for families," she explained.

"People can't always come if you have got to pay. We have got a range of activities, they are not all about bees, we have also got wood making and candle rolling.

"We have specialised bee talks for people who are a bit more interested, but primarily it is set up as a fun day for families."

The festival will be held at the Night Yard venue at Highland Court Farm - and traditional activities such as spinning - which consists of turning fibres into yarn, skep making - which involves making a round basket out of wicker or wood - and forging will be taking place.

"The Night Yard used to be a place where they would bring cattle in overnight from the fields, and it's been refurbished," said Ms Webster.

"All the stall holders will be in there. We have got spinners, we have got all kinds of honey for sale, we have tried to cover lots of areas.

"There is face painting on offer - children can choose from bees, butterflies and tigers. We have got lots of activities."

■ **The Kent Festival of Bees will be taking place on August 31 from 10am to 4pm. For more information about the day visit www.kent-festival-of-bees.co.uk**

LEARNING: Those attending the event will be given an insight into how bee populations work and why they's so important

DID YOU KNOW...?

- Estimates range from 50-80 per cent of the world's food supply being directly or indirectly affected by honey bee pollination.
- A third of all vegetables and fruits produced in the world are pollinated by honey bees.
- Honey bees have been managed and helped sustain farming practicies for as long as 4,500 years.
- If the honey bee was to disappear, farming practices would need to be radically altered, while food prices would also rocket as a consequence.
- There are 13 local branches of the Kent Bee-keepers Association which regularly stage lectures and demonstrations across the county. For details, visit www.kentbee.com.

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DENIS HELCKE

RANK: 745320 Sgt Pilot British 504 Squadron

Denis Arnold Helcke was born in Herne Bay. His parents took him to South Africa as a child and he was educated at King Edward VII School, Johannesburg.

He returned to England in 1935 and entered the Chelsea College of Aeronautical Engineering.

Helcke graduated with a diploma and passed Air Ministry examinations.

He obtained his 'A' licence and had done a considerable amount of flying before joining the RAF Volunteer Reserve (VR) in March 1939, as an airman u/t [under training] pilot.

Called to full time service on September 1 1939, Helcke completed his training at 5 FTS, Sealand on No 45 Course, which ran from December 11 1939 to June 10 1940.

He joined 504 Squadron at Wick on June 18, direct from 5 FTS. Flying from Hendon on September 7, he claimed a Heinkel He 111, a German bomber, destroyed near Ramsgate.

On September 17 1940 Helcke was killed, when he baled out after losing control, following dummy attacks during a practice flight over Faversham.

He may have struck the aircraft and he fell dead near Selling. His Hurricane, V 7529, crashed at Shepherds Hill, Selling.

Helcke was 24. He is buried in Herne Bay Cemetery.

HISTORY: Hurricanes and Spitfires were common in the skies above the county during the Battle of Britain in 1940. The bloody conflict was a key turning point in the Second World War

Book shines a light on 'the Few' and their lives before the battle

Fascinating book outlines the brave airmen who gave their all during the Battle of Britain 75 years ago

THERE has been a lot written about the Battle of Britain in recent months - a surge of interest for a key turning point of the Second World War which this year marked its 75th anniversary.

A battle famously, as war-time leader Winston Churchill refered to them, fought by The Few - the brave pilots who took off into the skies above Kent to engage the might of the German air force in a deadly game of cat and mouse.

Luftwaffe numbers were so huge, life expectancy for the Allies who took to the air was incredibly short. It was a devastating loss of young lives - given in the defence of our nation and which made an enormous difference to the future of this island.

Now a new fully updated book is set to become the new 'bible' for anyone wanting to know about the boys who regularly sent Hitler's aircraft scurrying back to the mainland.

It contains astonishing insights into the heroes who fought the Battle of Britain in the skies above the south east.

It is the third edition of Men of the Battle of Britain by Kenneth G Wynn, published by Frontline Books in association with the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust.

The pages detail incredible biographical information on all the aircrew known to have flown operationally in fighters between July 10 and October 31, 1940.

It was originally published in 1989 and had been extensively updated by the author before an anonymous benefactor enabled the Kent-based Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, based at Capel-le-Ferne, near Folkestone, to acquire the rights to the book, known to enthusiasts simply as Wynn.

That was in 2010, and since then a team of crack researchers worked tirelessly to not only improve and extend entries, but to add new names and delete others. All this effort has ensured the 600-plus pages reflect the most up-to-date information available.

Tragically, there are still gaps, and at this stage, it is widely believed they may never be filled with 100 per cent accurate information.

Some who flew in the Battle of Britain have never been properly identified – and probably never will be, said the research team, led by editor Geoff Simpson.

He told us: "Over the last five years a team of researchers has spent thousands of hours updating the information it contains.

"We see this as another tribute to 'The Few' of whom only about 25 are still alive, 75 years after they fought off the threat of a German invasion of England.

BOOK: 'Bible' penned by Wynn

"A great strength of 'Wynn' is that it does not differentiate between the aces and the 'unknowns', who in some cases lasted less than a week in action. They are all included in alphabetical order and with as much information as we have been able to find and confirm.

"Everybody who worked on the book believes that it is vital that future generations know about the airmen of Fighter Command and what they achieved in 1940, despite often fighting against great odds and suffering high rates of casualties. Their feats left their mark. Some of the veterans have said that, even in old age, they did not really like to hear a phone ringing. In 1940, that was often a call to face another large German force coming in over Kent."

There are some emotional entries in the book.

For example, the logbook of Flight Sergeant John Lingard, a Bristol Blenheim pilot with the RAF's No 25 Squadron, records that he flew a convoy patrol on July 13 1940 with 'Sergeant Harris' in his crew. It was clearly an operational flight, qualifying for the Battle of Britain Clasp, but nothing more is known of Sergeant Harris.

There is tragedy too, highlighting just how perilous it was to take on the might of the Luftwaffe.

The Woods-Scawen brothers, Patrick and Anthony, were both Hurricane pilots and were killed on suc

Continues on Page 20

DAVID KIRTON

RANK: 550500 Sgt Pilot British 65 Squadron

Born in Dover on June 2 1919, David Ian Kirton was educated at St James School, Dover and the County School for Boys there. He left in 1935 and joined the RAF later in the year as a boy entrant.

At some time Kirton was posted to the RAF School of Photography at Farnborough. He applied for pilot training, was selected and on June 12 1939 he began his course at 22 E&RFTS, Cambridge.

Kirton completed his training on March 23 1940. After converting to Hurricanes, he joined 501 Squadron at Tangmere on April 27. His stay was brief and on May 5 1940 he was posted to 65 Squadron at Hornchurch.

On August 8 he was killed, when he was shot down in flames, in combat with Bf 109s over Manston, in Spitfire K 9911.

Kirton was 21. His father, Royal Navy Electrical Artificer 3rd Class J H Kirton, died of pneumonia on November 9 1918, aged 27, serving at the shore establishment HMS Tarlair in Scotland. Father and son are both buried in St James' Cemetery, Dover. Kirton Close on the site of the former airfield at Hawkinge is named in David's honour.

WHAT WAS THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN?

THE Battle of Britain was a key turning point in the Second World War, and one which historians consistently identify as hugely significant.

The RAF describes it as the most important event in its history. So why does it remain all these years later, so revered?

In the build up to it, the German air forces had caused huge damage to the countries its ground forces were invading on mainland Europe, driving the Allied forces out.

The Nazi war plan was to then take advantage of its fresh strategic airfield sites in Europe to mount an attack on Britain - and that included laying waste to the air force to pave the way for a ground invasion. The Blitz began which saw enormous human and building casualties.

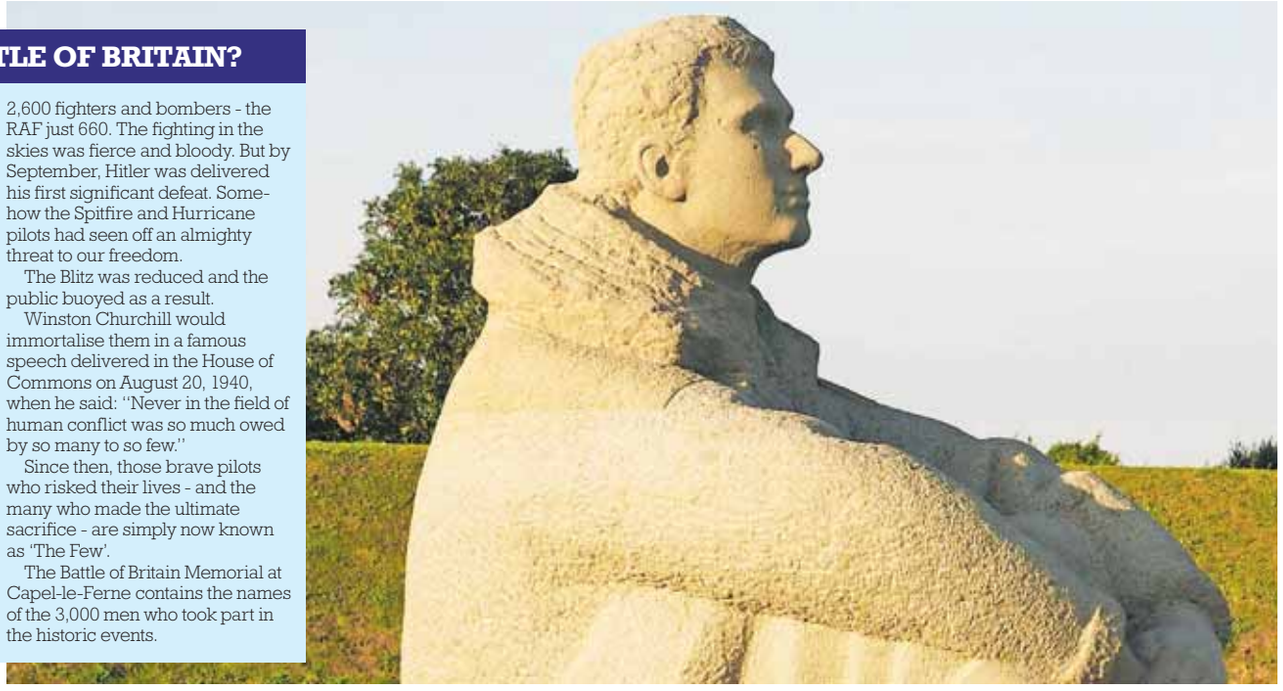
By June 1940, the German Luftwaffe swarmed above the skies of Kent and the English Channel. The Luftwaffe boasted more than 2,600 fighters and bombers - the RAF just 660. The fighting in the skies was fierce and bloody. But by September, Hitler was delivered his first significant defeat. Somehow the Spitfire and Hurricane pilots had seen off an almighty threat to our freedom.

The Blitz was reduced and the public buoyed as a result.

Winston Churchill would immortalise them in a famous speech delivered in the House of Commons on August 20, 1940, when he said: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Since then, those brave pilots who risked their lives - and the many who made the ultimate sacrifice - are simply now known as 'The Few'.

The Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne contains the names of the 3,000 men who took part in the historic events.



MEMORIAL: Statue at the Battle of Britain Memorial site at Capel-le-Ferne remembering 'the Few'

Continues from Page 19

cessive days. Anthony had become engaged two or three days before his death.

Sergeant Reg Isaac died on his first sortie as a Spitfire pilot, while Sergeant Bill Machin was a defiant air gunner, fatally wounded on his first sortie.

Dramatic stories include that of Pilot Officer 'Tim' Elkington of No 1 Squadron who, on August 16, 1940, bailed out of a burning Hurricane over the sea near Portsmouth. His comrade, Flight Sergeant Frederick George Berry, flew his aircraft close to Elkington and blew him ashore to land at West Wittering. Berry was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM) on August 20 for a previous achievement and was killed in action on September 1.

Richard Hunting is the chairman of the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust. He said: "Over more than a quarter of a century, 'Wynn' has rightly come to be regarded with both respect and affection by many people with a serious interest in the events of 1940.

"Its pages tell of the heroism of the 'Fighter Boys' and the tragedies that befell so many of them. It is remarkable that in 2015 we still do not have a complete list of 'The Few'. In this book, however, we have the benefit of the latest research."

You can buy a copy of the book through the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust at Capel-le-Ferne. The retail price for the book is £60.

■ **For further details of the book and the memorial, visit the trust's own website at www.battleofbritainmemorial.org.**

ROBERT SHAW

PILOT Officer Robert Shaw of No 1 Squadron died on September 3, 1940, his Hurricane crashing at Chart Sutton.

A ceremony is held at the spot, now a memorial garden, every year, attended by villagers, to remember him.

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Once in a century bloom is here

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A RARE tropical plant which blooms just once in 100 years - before dying shortly afterwards - has shot up 30ft in the last three months as it prepares for its final flourish.

And it has experienced such a remarkable pre-blooming growth spurt that the gardeners responsible for it have been forced to remove panes of glass in the 19th century greenhouse in which it lives to allow its growth to continue.

The American Agave plant was planted in the Thanet District Council-owned Italianate Greenhouse in King George VI Memorial Park 33 years ago.

But, up until May, it had lived in the Grade II-listed greenhouse and been a mere six foot tall. Today it is 35ft.

Gardener Philip Dadds, who also planted it, said that at its peak it was growing "about a foot a day", at one point shooting up seven foot in one week.

The buds have now started to bloom but its moment in the sun will be shortlived.

Mr Dadds say it would expect it to have died off by the autumn or early spring, and said the greenhouse staff - all volunteers - will then be faced with the dilemma of exactly how to remove it.

HIGH: The plant bursts through the right hand side of greenhouse roof as it blooms for the first and last time in its long life.

He said: "In the wild, it would just fall over. But with this one, it is going to get stuck in the greenhouse."

Cabinet member for operational service at the local council, Suzanne Brimm, said, "This is a fantastic sight for residents and visitors, and the knowledge that this has been 100 years in the making is pretty special. The gardener that planted it is still working for the council so it's great for him to see it come to fruition finally.

"On a day to day basis The Friends of the Italianate Greenhouse, led by gardener Philip Dadds, look after the council owned structure and plants. This is all on a voluntary basis and they do a wonderful job. I'd urge people to visit Ramsgate and take this rare opportunity to see this imposing plant for themselves whilst it's still blooming."

It may not be the only chance for locals to see the plant bloom, however, as there is another of the same plant in the greenhouse, with gardeners now keeping a close eye on it to see if it will follow suit.

The plant had originally been donated to the greenhouse after its original owner said it was getting too big for the greenhouse in their garden.

The Italianate Greenhouse in Ramsgate is free to visit.

WHAT IS AN AMERICAN AGAVE?

NATIVE to Mexico and Arizona and Texas in the US, it has long been cultivated worldwide as an ornamental plant.

It has also become naturalised in a host of regions, among them other parts of South America, sections of the Mediterranean, Africa, India, China, Thailand and Australia.

There are a range of variations on the plant, and it has been used in the past for ingredients for tequila, while the leaves have been used for making rope and used for embroidery of leather.

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How top festival will be rocking to homegrown talent

AS GLASTONBURY fades into the distance, the summer's traditional other long-time big hitter is tuning up to rock tens of thousands of music fans, as the Reading Festival ramps up for its August bank holiday outing.

Headlined by heavyweights such as Metallica, Mumford & Sons and the reformed Libertines, there is also a healthy helping of Kent bands taking to the stages between August 28-30.

Molly Kersey caught up with some of those performers with local roots to provide a snap shot of their careers so far, and how they are feeling in the run-up to performing at one of the music calendar's most popular events.

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FEED THE RHINO

ROCKERS Feed The Rhino will be preparing for their performances on the main stage of Reading - and the Leeds Festival which sees the same line-up play both locations - with a special warm-up show in Medway just days before.

The band, which released their first album, Mr Red Eye, in 2010, and are now touring in support of their latest offering, The Sorrow and the Sound, which came out in 2014, will play the tiny Tap 'n' Tin venue in Chatham on August 26.

Explains frontman Lee Tobin: "In our youth we used to smash this place to bits on stage on almost a weekly basis. We felt it only right we head back there once more to warm-up for the biggest show of our career."

Mr Tobin is joined by brothers Sam and James Colley on guitars, Chris Kybert on drums and Oz Craggs on bass. All are from the county.

Added the singer: "We have played Reading before, it's our second time, but to be part of the main stage line up is just unbelievable. For us it's a massive achievement.

"We played the smaller Lock Up stage before. It was amazing, it's always one of the good festivals, especially in the UK. It's one of the biggest festivals you can play."

And he said the band's success has taken them all by surprise.

"We never thought that far ahead," he said. "When we first started writing all we wanted to do was write music and play a few shows. We didn't think we would be playing alongside huge bands at festivals."

OPENER: Band will be first up on the final day of festival

And a return to Chatham for the warm-up will allow the band to catch up with relatives.

Mr Tobin explained to KoS: "Kent is our base. I have family and lots of friends there and try and get back as frequently as possible.

"We are all spread out a little bit.

"Oz is in Folkestone, the others live in the Strood area and Maidstone. I was originally from Bexley.

"Me and James have been friends for a long time and Sam is James' brother, and they were in bands before and we were all friends and wanted to get together and have a jam. It's steamrolled."

So what can fans expect from the performance when they take to the Reading stage on the Sunday?

"We try and mix it up as much as possible," he said.

"We try and stick to what we want to play and what comes across the best. We are on our third album now so we have got quite a lot of choice, so you can never please everybody, including yourself. We also try and get a happy medium. We just try to get a set that is going to be as out there and in your face as we can."

And they have a unique sound.

"As musicians you always set out to create your own kind of style," he said.

"We never wanted to sound like anyone. Music is a huge thing that has been around a lot longer than we have and will be around a lot longer after we go. We are always going to be related to what's gone on before and what's been played before.

"People have tried to put us into brackets but I don't think they can and we didn't want to be part of a bracket - we wanted to be Feed The Rhino."

Bassist Oz Craggs added: "Every time they tried to put us in a scene, we purposefully moved away from that.

"We never wanted to belong to anyone so that we never had any scene to answer to."

■ **Feed the Rhino are the first band on the main stage at Reading on Sunday, August 30.**

MOOSE BLOOD

TUNED: Moose Blood recently released the single Gum

A GROUP of friends from Canterbury, Moose Blood bonded over a shared love of the emotionally-heavy 'emo' music.

Now, the band has a jam-packed summer schedule, which includes playing Reading Festival and extending their touring plans until the end of the year.

The four-piece band, made up of frontman Eddy Brewerton, Glenn Harvey, Kyle Todd and Mark Osborne, are riding high off the back of being nominated for best British newcomer at the upcoming Kerrang! awards.

Their record, I'll Keep You In Mind From Time To Time, is out now and features the song Gum - which the band recently unveiled the new video for.

The video charts the adventures of a smitten young boy, and his take on modern day life. And they are looking forward to playing it live for their fans when they hit the festival stage.

Frontman Eddy Brewerton said: "Gum was one of the first songs we wrote for the record.

"It came together really easily and to me it means the world.

"I wrote the lyrics as I was getting to know my wife and all the little things that happened in those first few weeks.

"We love this song, it's one of our favourites to play live and I think it always will be."

■ **Moose Blood will be on the Lock Up stage on Sunday, August 30.**

Continues on Page 24

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Continues from Page 23

EVERYTHING EVERYTHNG

DESCRIBED as 'art rock' Everything Everything have enjoyed considerable success since they first formed in 2007.

Three albums into their career - their two most recent offerings hit the UK top 10 album charts - they have been shortlisted for the Mercury Music Prize and received three nominations for the prestigious Ivor Novello Awards.

And on Saturday night at Reading they will be playing high up the list of performers on the popular NME/BBC Radio 1 second stage.

They will be showcasing their latest album, Get To Heaven, which was released earlier this year.

Singer Jonathan Higgs, bassist Jeremy Pritchard, guitarist Alex Robertshaw and drummer Michael Spearman make up the group.

Mr Pritchard, originally from Tunbridge Wells, met his band mates during his time at university. The band is now based in Manchester.

And he is looking forward to performing to the crowds at Reading Festival.

He said: "We are really excited. We actually haven't done it in four years. I think it's the first festival of any kind we ever played, certainly the first big one and the first of any that we had been aware of growing up, it was the festival that people went to after finishing their GCSEs and getting their results.

"It was really significant to us at the time in 2009; we were on the BBC Introducing stage that year.

"We had quite a big crowd for the stage. The gig was great and I think we did ourselves proud.

"Then we did the following two years on the NME/Radio One stage, which is where we are playing this time."

And he feels very positive about this year's Reading and what fans can expect from their time there.

EVERYTHING: Band have enjoyed real success and feature Tunbridge Wells bassist Jeremy Pritchard

"It's a very simple process of turning up and pitching your tent and watching lots and lots of bands and drinking cheap cider. There is still a place for that in festival culture," he said.

Speaking about how he met the other band members, he explained: "I grew up in Tunbridge Wells and I went to university in Salford and lived in Manchester ever since.

"I lived in Tunbridge Wells all the way through uni anyway, until I was about 19, and learnt an awful lot of what I know now by going to the Tunbridge Wells Forum [popular, award-winning venue on the Common converted from a fromer public toilet] every day. We actually played there in April."

He said the Forum has been a really inspirational place for him.

"I went there for the first time when I was 14. I was in a band at school and we played there a lot, probably about once a month for two to three years. The whole ethos of that place is nobody really gets paid, it's just done for the love of it, and that really rubbed off on me. I was playing with lots of different bands and being exposed to lots of different music there.

"Tunbridge Wells has a certain reputation for being very conservative and safe, I suppose, but this particular underbelly - and I don't mean that unkindly - was what made it somewhere I could thrive. It was invaluable for me.

"I was down there a few months ago, my parents don't live there anymore so I rarely get the chance to get back. I miss being in Tunbridge Wells and I miss the scene."

Their band has lots of different musical influences, with an eclectic mixture of musical styles including alternative rock, glitch pop and electronica.

"Very basically it's a melting pot of lots of different sensibilities that the four of us bring to the table, and the core influences we have also had like Radiohead, Nirvana and The Beatles. It's quite a mish-mash," explained Mr Pritchard.

And they have a lot of other gigs in store.

"The rest of the summer is festivals and we are touring the UK in November," he said.

■ **Everything Everything will be on the NME Radio One stage on Saturday, August 29.**

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SLAVES

TWO-PIECE punk band Slaves, whose album Are You Listening? made it into the top 10 album chart earlier this year, continue their meteoric rise up the ranks with a slot on the second, NME/Radio One stage, on the Saturday at Reading.

Laurie Vincent, of Maidstone, and Isaac Holman, of Tunbridge Wells, have performed at festivals a number of times before, but it's their first time on that stage.

They are well known for their wild and energetic live shows.

So what is their sound like?

Explains Mr Vincent: "We get called punk quite a lot and lots of people have arguments about whether we are punk or not so we decided its primal.

"We are trying to talk about how people should be inspired. We want to do something different."

The pair met in Tunbridge Wells some four years ago.

"We were both in different bands around Kent," the guitarist adds, "I was a big fan of one Isaac's early projects - Bareface.

"I went to one of their shows and we met afterwards."

Mr Vincent eventually joined the group as a bass player, but the two decided to branch off and form their own band and they have formed a firm friendship.

SMASH: Album made top 10 this year

"We are like brothers now. We do everything together," said Mr Vincent.

And Kent influences have made their way into some of their songs too.

"Where's Your Car Debbie? was written when we were at the Tunbridge Wells Forum," said Mr Vincent.

The song tells the story of a spooky walk through the woods, during which the pair try and help an acquaintance find her car.. and get scared of encountering Bigfoot.

"Girl Fight was about Isaac seeing girls fighting in Tunbridge Wells," Mr Vincent added.

"Most of our songs were written in Kent early on. We try and keep it as local as we can and we always tell everyone we are from Kent to try and inspire people from there."

They had no idea just how much their band would take off.

"When you are doing something yourself you don't consider it in the grand scheme," Mr Vincent explained.

"You don't consider the effect it's having. But someone said to us recently 'you have proved you can be in the top 10 without making a generic record'."

So what's in store for them in the future?

"We just want to make the music we want to make and keep creating. We want to keep evolving and getting better and writing albums. We don't want to be the same in 20 years," said Mr Vincent.

■ **Slaves will be on the NME/Radio One stage on Saturday, August 29.**

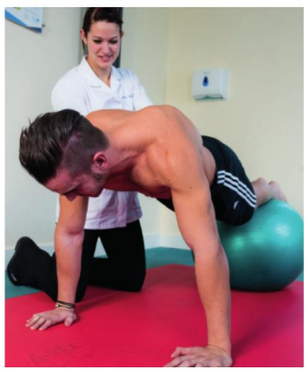
Ever considered a career in Osteopathy?

If you're thinking about what to do after sixth form or college, or contemplating a career change, then perhaps osteopathy should be on your list of options.

Osteopathy is a distinct healthcare profession. It's recognised by the British Medical Association and is legally regulated in the UK. Having a UK recognised qualification in osteopathy allows practitioners to set up their own practices and, as primary healthcare professionals, they are able to both diagnose and treat patients. The profession is very popular in Europe and across the globe, with recognition on a par with medicine in America. The average income of qualified osteopaths is over £40,000 and many earn in excess of double that running successful clinics in locations such as Harley Street.

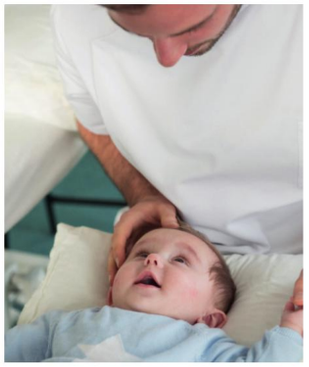
Osteopaths use their hands to gently release muscles and joints with a variety of techniques working with the natural healing properties of the body. This then encourages healthy movement, which in turn restores healthy function. Techniques involved could be massage, articulation, lymphatic drainage, manipulation of joints or the ever so gentle balancing techniques and cranial osteopathy. Each appointment lasts between 30-45 minutes, which gives the osteopath time to fully understand their patients' complete state of health.

Osteopathy is recognised to reduce pain, increase joint mobility and relieve muscle tension. Most readily associated with the relief of backache, arthritic symptoms and exercise related injuries, osteopathy is actually a far broader healthcare approach. Based on the concept that the structure of the body is directly related to the function of the body osteopaths have positive health effects on a wide range of common conditions, and because it aims to improve the way that our bodies function it can be applied to patients of all ages. Osteopaths work with elite athletes and top sports people, they work with Olympic teams and football clubs, they treat children, they treat pensioners. Their holistic approach to health is appreciated across the population.



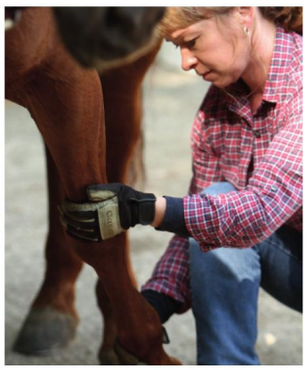
It may be surprising to know that Maidstone is recognised as a centre of excellence for the training and practice of osteopathy worldwide. As well as being home to one of the original post-graduate schools in Britain, Maidstone hosts the world renowned European School of Osteopathy (ESO). Founded in 1974 the School has been instrumental in the development of osteopathic education across Europe and beyond. The School currently has partner colleges in Russia, Poland, and Denmark, but it also helped the development of schools in France, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Egypt and Italy.

Based at the beautiful Boxley House, the ESO provides undergraduate education validated as a partner college of the University of Greenwich. Its four year Integrated Masters degree is respected for having one of the most innovative and exciting ranges of manipulative techniques, which means that graduates are well prepared to excel in an exciting and rewarding career.



The European School of Osteopathy has a well-established and successful clinic on the Tonbridge Road in Maidstone, where its reputation for treating patients of all ages is well known. The Clinic provides over 20,000 treatments each year with the Children's Clinic being particularly popular; parents of children of all ages, from a few days old to teens, lay testament to the support, effectiveness and professionalism experienced by visiting the ESO Clinic. As do the many thousands of adults who have benefited at the hands of the School's student practitioners, under the supervision of experienced and qualified osteopaths.

The ESO is also trailblazing in the expanding world of Animal Osteopathy, which is now offered as an MSc. This is an increasingly popular area of the profession. Osteopaths are now treating thoroughbreds and ponies, pedigree and rescue dogs, while others are working in zoos with exotic animals and in wildlife parks in Africa.



So, if you think that you would enjoy a career helping people of all ages and have an interest in human physiology and health maybe osteopathy is for you. The ESO considers every application on the personal qualities of the applicant. If you don't have the required level of science qualifications the School runs a pre-entry science course in the summer, to get you up to speed. Mainly delivered via online learning facilities with occasional Saturday lectures, the summer science course has been designed not to interfere with your home/work life commitments.

So what are you waiting for? Make a positive change in your life by visiting the ESO Clinic at 104 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone. Or better still apply for a place at the European School of Osteopathy. Who knows, in September you might be embarking on the adventure of your life.

For further information and informal advice contact the ESO's Admissions Team on 01622 671558 or visit www.eso.ac.uk.

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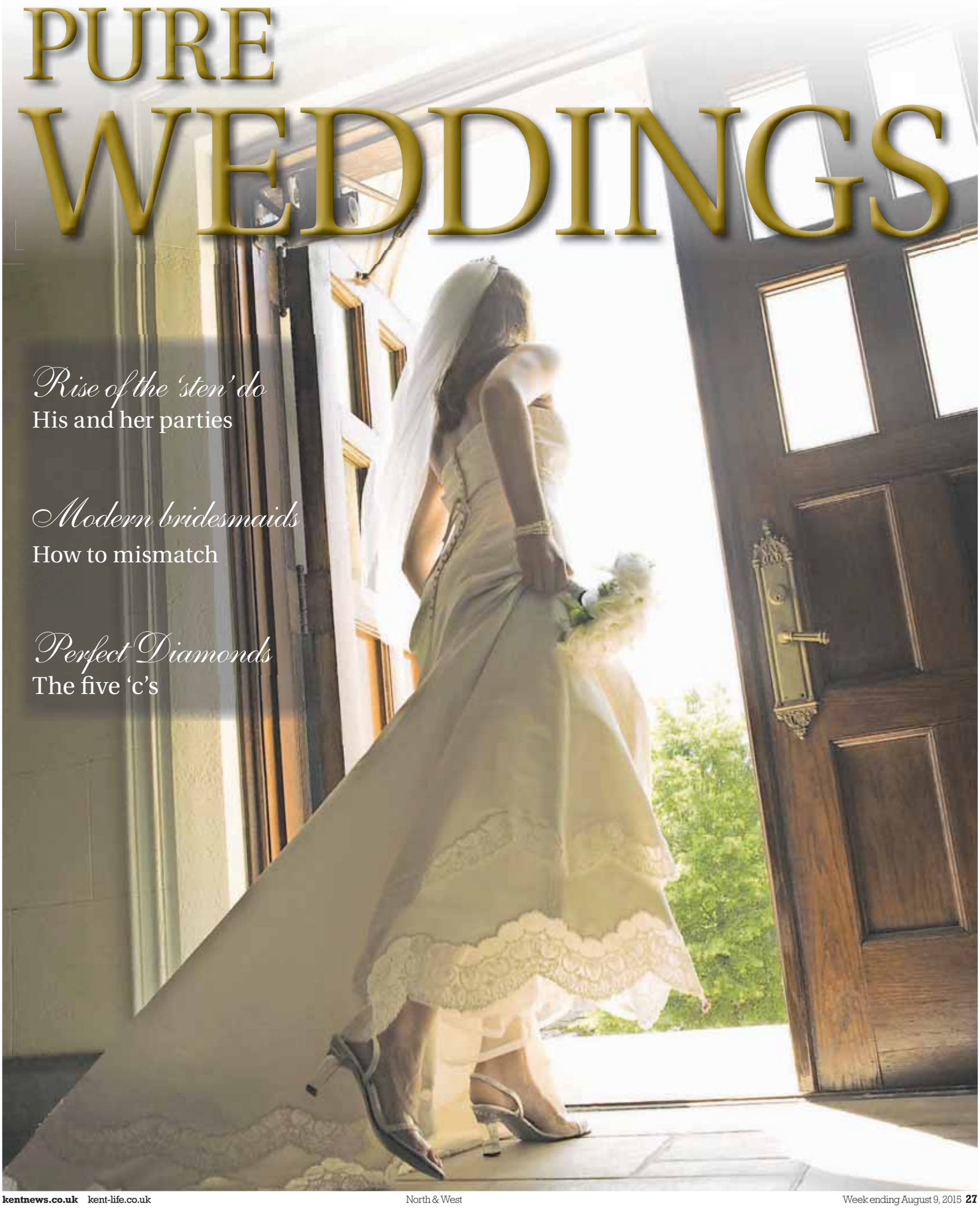

Rise of the 'sten' do
His and her parties

Modern bridesmaids
How to mismatch

Perfect Diamonds
The five 'c's

Contents

Welcome to this edition of Pure Weddings.

Whether you are well into your planning journey, or just starting to think about getting engaged, there are articles that will help you along the way.

With an in depth guide to buying the perfect diamond, as well as pieces on the hottest trends, the stag and hen parties and second weddings, there truly is something for everyone.

So congratulations to couples embarking on their trip to the aisle...

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The hottest wedding trends for 2015

WEDDING trends are constantly evolving - and this year is no different.

There are a host of new fads that are set to sweep the wedding world - with some significant changes to how the happy couple can celebrate their big day.

One of the big things for 2015 is losing the serious part of the day - the ceremony. A growing number of brides and grooms are choosing to forgo the big church or fancy civil legal proceedings, and just nip to the registry office with a handful of witnesses.

According to wedding planner Jen Weeks: "Most people have lived together first - maybe even for years. There is a level of informality when it comes to their relationship.

"So they may want to make it official, but they don't want their guests to sit through a long ceremony.

"Instead, the focus will be on the big party - the eating, drinking, dancing and fun."

And food is playing a big part in these modern celebrations.

Ms Weeks says: "The idea of the formal sit down three-course meal will always be popular.

"But there are so many innovative ways to eat - and more couples are embracing them. One of my favourite ideas is food trucks - you can have mini versions of lots of dishes, from cheesesteaks to sliders, tacos, falafel and more.

"You need to have enough provision to make sure guests aren't queuing for too long though."

FASHION: Lots of couples are looking to put a modern and informal twist on their big day

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Shunning tradition for the 'sten do'

THE rise of the 'sten do' has seen many couples sweep tradition aside.

Sten dos (a combination of stag and hen dos) are the newest trend to hit the wedding scene.

Lots of men and women are choosing to forgo that symbolic 'last night of freedom' and are instead choosing to spend their night out with each other.

For Lisa Green, engaged to Steve McDermott, it is a no-brainer.

"I'm getting married in a couple of months," she explains.

"Loads of our attention has been on the stag and hen nights. And I started to really think about what I wanted to do, and realised 'hang on, why am I planning the most important night out of my life - without my best friend'?"

And fiance Mr McDermott agrees. He says: "I'm so not interested in all the strippers, and dodgy mens' clubs - that's so passe.

"I had been looking at maybe going to a football match with the lads, then clubbing after, but by combining our dos, and our budgets, we can do something a bit more impressive."

The two will now put their money together, and spend the evening on a party boat with a large group of their friends.

MODERN: More and more couples are shunning old fashioned stag and hen parties to celebrate in style together

That is another aspect of the sten do; while the wedding day itself offers an opportunity to show off the couple's vision, with a larger budget, and a bigger pool of invitees, the sten do is a good chance to celebrate.

According to Ms Green: "We saw the sten do as a more raucous version of the wedding. We could hire a venue, and have a great party, but at the same time, it will just be friends, so we will be able to let our hair down properly, and really enjoy ourselves.

"We will have fun at the wedding, but with our parents, grandparents and young children there, it is definitely not going to be a boozy, party atmosphere." Wedding planner Gemma Keith has seen a massive increase in the number of couples choosing to celebrate this way.

She says: "It has become part of the ritual for lots of brides and grooms.

"Before it would be a case of going out somewhere, having lots of drinks, and maybe a tacky night out on the town.

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The five 'C's for savvy brides

FOR many couples, the journey to their wedding starts with a diamond.

While diamonds are often considered to be the rock of choice for engagement rings, lots of people will not have thought about buying one before.

And the diamond world can seem like a confusing one - with the traditional 'four Cs' of clarity, cut, colour and carat.

And for a growing number of ethical consumers, there is a fifth 'c' - conflict.

Conflict diamonds, aka blood or war diamonds, are diamonds that originate from war zones and are illegally traded to fund rebel fighters and insurgencies.

These stones can fund and prolong conflict in war-torn countries.

They are usually associated with various countries in Africa, with insurgent groups, funded by the diamonds.

On top of that, the treatment of workers in the conflict diamond industry is often reported as being inhumane, and rife with disease, violence and starvation. For these reasons, both the buying and selling of conflict diamonds is illegal.

Over 99 per cent of diamonds are thought to be conflict-free. Retailers should be registered with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, to ensure they comply with industry standards.

POPULAR: Many couples choose a diamond engagement ring

When it comes to grading of stones, different certifications may use different grades. The most popular certification is GIA

In terms of the other 'c's, **carat** refers to the weight of the diamond (different to 'carat' which refers to the purity of gold). One carat weighs around a fifth of a gram. A carat is usually divided into points, ie. 0.1, 0.2 etc.

Although carat denotes weight, the carat won't necessarily be an indicator of size, as other aspects can affect how large the stone appears, and the proportions of the stone.

Different shapes can have an impact too - longer shapes tend to look larger than rounded stones of the same weight, and the appearance of a diamond's size can also be affected by how the stone is set in a piece of jewellery, as well the size of

the wearer's finger.

Next on the list is **cut**.

Many people consider cut to be the most important attribute to consider when it comes to judging a diamond.

According to the GIA: "A polished diamond's beauty lies in its complex relationship with light.

"The magnificence you see is made up of three attributes: Brightness - this is the internal and external white light reflected from a diamond; Fire - the scattering of white light into all the colours of the rainbow; and scintillation - the amount of sparkle a diamond produces, and the pattern of light and dark areas caused by reflections within the diamond."

In its basic form, cut describes how well a diamond has been made from its rough form, rather than what shape is, or the type of cut process applied by the diamond polisher

How a diamond is cut and polished from its rough form is what determines its overall sparkle. For this reason, cut also plays a large part in determining the price of a stone. Cut is generally graded from 'excellent' to 'poor'.

In terms of **colour**, the diamond colour evaluation is based on the absence of colour.

This is because a chemically pure and structurally perfect diamond has no hue, like a drop of pure water, and consequently, a higher value.

GIA's rates colour from D-to-Z, with D, representing colourless stones, and Z representing the most discoloured.

According to the GIA: "Many of these colour distinctions are so subtle that they are invisible to the untrained eye; however, these distinctions make a very big difference in diamond quality and price."

Clarity is also a fundamental aspect in evaluating a diamond.

Natural diamonds are the result of carbon exposed to tremendous heat and pressure deep in the earth. This process can result in a variety of internal characteristics called 'inclusions' and external characteristics called 'blemishes.'

Evaluating diamond clarity involves determining the number, size, relief, nature, and position of these characteristics, as well as how these affect the overall appearance of the stone. While no diamond is perfectly pure, the closer it comes, the higher its value.

GIA has 11 specific gradings, from flawless, which have no visible inclusions or blemishes under 10x magnification to included, which have obvious blemishes.

Like the other 'c's, clarity can have a huge impact on price.

Because of all these factors, as well as taste, style, and budget, engagement ring shopping can be fraught and confusing.

According to GIA: "Know what you want to spend. You will be confronted with a dizzying array of choices when it comes to engagement rings. Have a price range in mind. Going in with fairly specific parameters will help your jeweler find the right engagement ring to fit your budget.

"What kind of jewelry does she already wear? Is she more classic or modern? Feminine or sophisticated? Does she wear more silver or gold? Do her pieces tend to be more delicate or chunky? Simple or ornate?

Have these preferences in mind when you set out to shop. If you buy something similar to what she already likes, you can't go wrong."

EXPERTISE: Gem specialists will be able to show you a wide selection of stones

RARE: It takes an enormous amount of rock to recover less than half a carat of rough diamond

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Additional day guests charged at £63pp, additional evening guests charged at £17.50pp

Saturdays - £4,935.00 – available on: 8, 15, August, 26, September, (usually £6,580.00)
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Additional day guests charged at £66pp, additional evening guests charged at £17.50pp

Sundays - £3,112.50 – available on: 9, 23, August, 13, 27, September, (usually £4,150.00)
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Second wedding

WHILE everyone wants to believe in a happy ever after, the reality is, divorce rates are higher than ever.

But it's not all bad.

Many people find themselves moving on, and developing stronger relationships after a failed first marriage.

Some will go on to marry again - but the second wedding brings its own issues.

Jill Curtis, author of How to Get Married... Again, said: "Many second-time brides-to-be or in-laws want to know what the 'rules' are for a second wedding.

"Etiquette may seem an old-fashioned word, something you might want to dispense with if you've been married before, but it does apply to second weddings too.

"There are more people involved this time and no matter how much the couple think this day is just about them, they do have to consider others - otherwise there will be tears."

There are many elements of your second big day that people will have an opinion on.

Most importantly, does your spouse have children?

According to Ms Curtis: "If your partner has a child you are marrying a family."

This can make your decision to marry more complicated than the first time round.

She says: "Tell them your plans early on - and tell them together.

"This gives them a glimpse of you both as a married couple and reinforces how important a decision it is."

Less fundamental details include what to wear - tradition dictates second time brides should not wear a veil or train.

SPECIAL: Even if you have been married before, a wedding is still a special day

Beyond that, anything goes, whether it's an extravagant white gown, or a smart suit.

An important thing to bear in mind is whether your partner has been married before.

If not, they may well want the bells and whistles that you had first time round, and therefore are not interested in.

You should make sure your day isn't a re-run of wedding number one though - both your guests and you need to acknowledge this is a fresh start, without any reminders or hints of your previous marriage.

But most of all, while respecting the wishes of those around you, you should enjoy the day.

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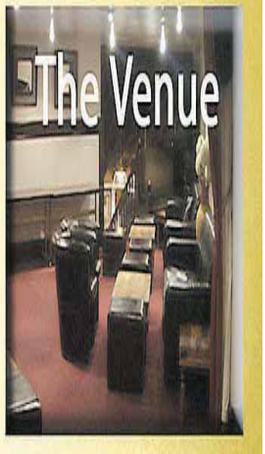

The modern art of mis-matching

MANY will have experienced the horror. Films have been made about them, they are the butt of many jokes. That's right - the bridesmaid dress.

It's undeniable that women come in all shapes and sizes - so to try and cram them all into the same dress is just, well, mean.

So bridesmaids can now rejoice, with the new trend for mismatching; in other words the bridesmaids become somewhat more independent. But mismatching brings its own set of problems with it. For some brides, it's hard to let go of the tradition of matching brides - but fret not, this look can still definitely work.

One obvious way to keep your maids happy and looking their best is to pick a colour, and then let them pick their own design. You can go to specific retailers for this, where the shop will make up a selection of their own designs in the same fabric but different colours, or even just high street shops if you aren't too worried about the hues matching perfectly.

For those who are worried about mismatching so that the girls look at least coordinated, rather than a hot mess, there are some designers who offer collections with the mismatched theme in mind, using the same colour, or even other design aspects that pull the looks together.

For example, the dresses could share a floral motif, fabric, length, and boho-chic feel even though the colours are different. In fact, they're not even in the same family.

The solution here is to go with your gut - it's good to keep the bridesmaids happy, and this look is perfect for a modern, informal day.

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Capture the day

FOR many couples, having their special day captured on film holds a huge amount of importance for them. After all, your wedding is called the 'best day of your life' for a reason.

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With photographs or a video of the ceremony and reception, the newly married couple can relive their special day, or share it with others who may not have been able to attend.

RG Studios is a photographic and media studio based in Ashford.

They provide wedding photography and videography for both the county and the whole of the UK.

And they are very passionate about the service that they provide to couples.

"Our approach to wedding photography is friendly and relaxed, aimed so you feel at ease and have fun," said owner Richard Grebby.

"All our packages come with an engagement session that includes prints, it helps us to get to know you and how you feel in front of the camera so you are perfectly prepared for your big day."

As well as this, they take care to present the photographs exactly as the couple would like.

"Every wedding we photograph also comes with an album, a special reminder of your day put together exactly how you want it, with care and attention so you cherish your memories forever," added Mr Grebby.

For more details about RG Studios head to www.rgstudios.co.uk.

Small screen love

WEDDINGS make great TV. After all, they have the elements of drama - tension, high emotions, and a love story to boot.

For years, eagle-eyed wedding watchers have binged on frothy confections like Don't Tell the Bride and Four Weddings and a Funeral.

But this year, wedding television took a dramatic twist, with Married at First Sight.

This programme saw a panel of experts take the profile (psychological, genetic, social) of 1,500 hopeful singletons, and then pair them up.

So, how did they fare?

Of the three couples put together, only two of them made it down the aisle.

Of those two couples...one of the marriages broke up in a couple of weeks, with the errant groom discovered on dating app Tinder mere days after the honeymoon.

The other couple fared better, despite an awkward ceremony. A few months after their eyes had met in front of the registrar, they decided to persevere with their relationship.

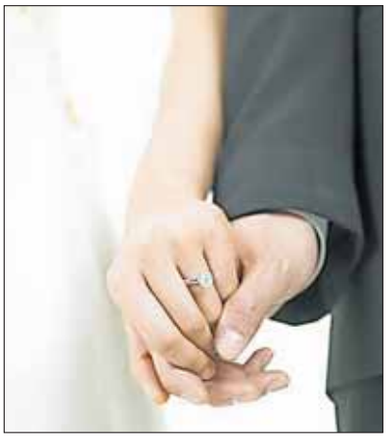
So why do we love watching a love story on screen?

According to wedding planner Jen Weeks: "I think most people still love the romantic idea of the happy ever after.

"Also, with reality television, you get the impression that the production companies have to keep raising the stakes higher and higher to keep viewers interested.

"After all, how much more extreme can you go than committing yourself for life to someone the first time you meet them?"

But does she think the show made a mockery of marriage?



CONTROVERSIAL: Would you marry someone the first time you met them?

"I am involved in around 30 weddings a year," she says. "I have seen so many different couples, but they have all had one thing in common.

"They are totally committed to the relationship and making it work. They know each other inside out, and they have thought long and hard about taking this step.

"I am sure the participants in the show were serious about finding a relationship, but I am not sure if this was the best way to go about it.

"I am looking forward to seeing if there are any successful marriages from this idea in the long term."

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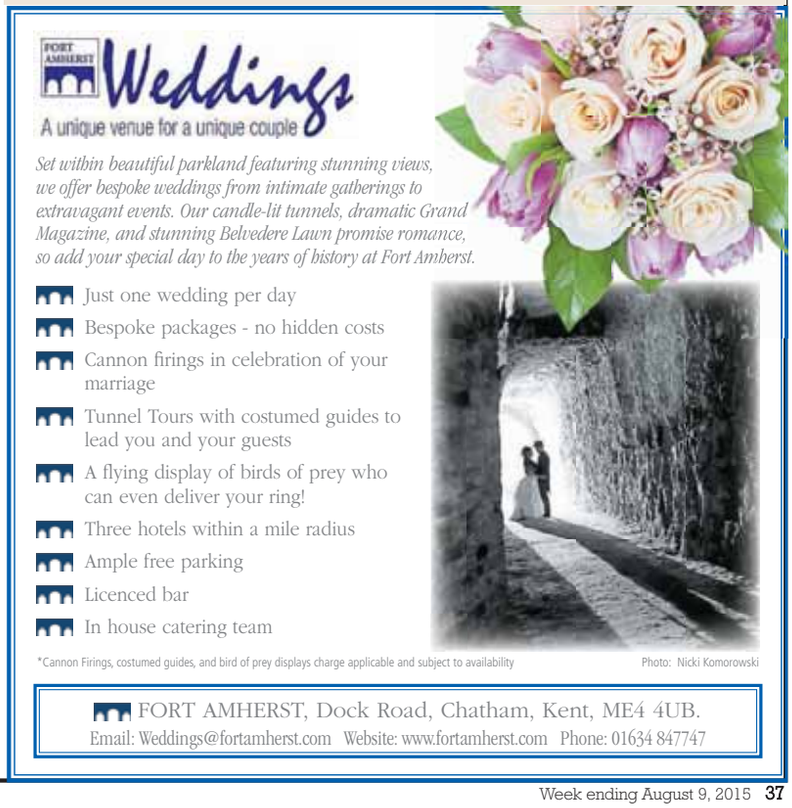

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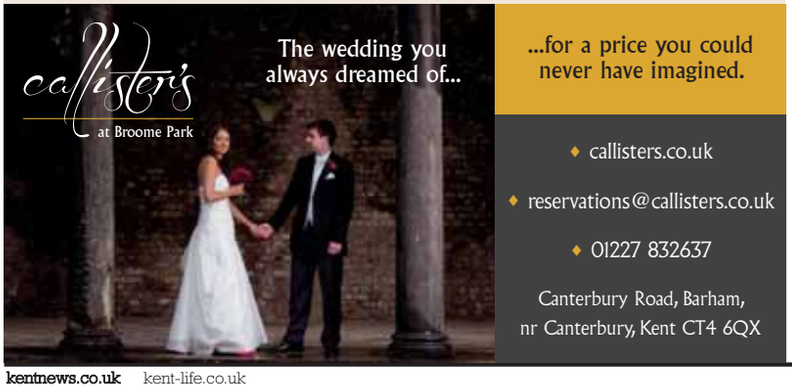

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ROMANCE: The show tells the story of Johnny and Baby. Picture: TRISTRAM KENTON

Baby certainly isn't put in the corner in show

Did the audience have the time of their life when Dirty Dancing show came to Canterbury?

REVIEW by Molly Kersey
molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

IT is safe to say that Baby, in fact none of the cast, are put in the corner in this absolutely brilliant show.

Based on the 1987 film starring Jennifer Grey and Patrick Swayze, Dirty Dancing is a coming of age story centred around Baby and Johnny.

Baby is spending the summer with her parents and sister at Kellerman's resort when she meets dance instructor Johnny and, against all the odds, the two fall hopelessly in love.

Unfortunately Johnny, played excellently by Lewis Kirk, is part of the enterainment staff - viewed as being 'lower class' and therefore forbidden to do anything other than teach the guests how to dance.

Jessie Hart plays tenacious teenager Baby incredibly well, standing up for what she believes in and trying hard to help people in trouble no matter what the personal cost might be. She is determined to join the Peace Corps, she is interested in politics and changing the world for the better.

Johnny calls Baby 'somebody who's taught me about the kind of person I wanna be,' and indeed, I think there are members of the audience - myself included - who leave the show resolving to be a little bit more like Baby.

Anyone who has watched the film will know the storyline, and the show sticks to it pretty closely throughout.

However, there have been some adaptations so that fans of the well-loved movie will still be in for some surprises.

For example, the elderly couple who steal wallets from unsuspecting hotel guests - the Schumachers - are replaced by one all-singing, all-dancing oddball, who waltzes around the hotel serenading uncomfortable members of staff and creating mischief.

It's a welcome change, and a very entertaining - if slightly surreal - one.

There is scope to find out more about the issues of the era and it is nice to see Johnny and Baby have more time to get to know each other - discussing topics such as why Johnny doesn't vote and inequalities between social classes.

Set in the 1960s, the show also discusses the freedom riders - civil rights activists who campaigned for racial equality in the segregated areas of southern United States.

"It's bad out there," performer Tito Suarez tells one of the characters thinking of going to Mississippi to get involved -warning him he will come back injured, if he comes back at all.

The film has maintained its huge popularity for nearly 30 years, which is reflected in the wide age range of the members of the audience who turn up to enjoy the show.

It translates well on to the stage, with the use of a screen and film footage helping to bring the show to life and recreate some of the most treasured moments of the movie - such as learning the lifts in the water.

The dancing is a huge highlight, and the fast paced and fluid routines performed by the cast are absolutely captivating.

Carlie Milner, who excels as Penny, and Lewis Kirk dance incredibly well together. It is easy to see why Baby finds herself so entranced by their routine after carrying a watermelon into the 'entertainers only' party and watching them perform their own style of dancing.

It is engaging to see the progression in Baby's dancing too. We see her go from painstakingly learning the mambo - with Johnny helping her improve her frame and 'spaghetti arms' - to launching into a beautifully choreographed routine and finally perfecting the lifts after Johnny marches through the audience on to the stage, announcing the iconic line "nobody puts Baby in the corner" and being greeted with cheers and applause.

Dirty Dancing will continue its run at the Marlowe Theatre until August 22.

To book visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

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500	1600	1638	£166.60	£119.00
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600	800	995	£86.80	£62.00
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400	1200	1052	£107.80	£77.00
400	1600	1390	£162.00	£116.00
500	800	859	£93.80	£67.00
500	1000	1015	£101.47	£73.00
500	1200	1240	£110.60	£79.00
500	1600	1638	£169.40	£121.00
500	1800	1882	£183.40	£131.00
600	800	995	£92.40	£66.00
600	1000	1174	£105.00	£75.00
600	1200	1439	£166.20	£83.00
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MISSED: Cilla Black's death has sparked a host of tributes from across the entertainment world

How Cilla had 'a heart' which inspired TV star

Pantomime producer Paul Hendy joined tributes paid to the late singer who died in Spain last week

By Chris Murphy

FORMER TV star turned theatre impressario, Paul Hendy, has paid a glowing tribute to the late singer Cilla Black, who died suddenly at her home in Spain last weekend.

The star, 72, died after falling on the balcony of her villa in Estepona in the south of Spain.

A post mortem discovered she had fallen, hit her head, and then had a stroke.

It sparked a week of mourning from fans who loved her singing and her later career as a hugely successful TV presenter, fronting the likes of Blind Date and Surprise, Surprise.

Mr Hendy, who along with wife Emily Wood run Evolution Productions, based in Sandwich, says she was one of his inspirations as he made his name as TV presenter on the likes of Wheel of Fortune and Don't Try This At Home.

He has since quit being in front of the camera as to stage shows - most notably a string of pantomimes, among them the ever popular festive show at the Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury.

Speaking to KoS this week, he said: "She was doing Blind Date when I was trying to get into the business and was a definite influence.

"At that time, she owned Saturday night television with a string of hit shows.

"She was not just an influence on me, she affected the whole world of British light entertainment.

"I saw her in pantomime about three or four years ago when she did the Liverpool Empire.

"I went to see her because she is a legend and I wanted to see what she was going to be like in pantomime, and she was absolutely brilliant. It was a matinee and I said to my wife Emily, I bet she just takes it easy. But she absolutely gave it 100 per cent. The Empire is about 2,500 seats and she filled it with her personality and star power. We talk about the X-factor and she had that. She impressed me.

"All these years later, for me to see a good old fashioned star in panto was wonderful."

Mr Hendy was one of a number of local figures in the entertainment industry quick to pay tribute to Ms Black.

Mark Everett, director of the Marlowe Theatre, in Canterbury, said: "Cilla was part of the British entertainment make up. Not only was she a member of the extraordinary team of great Liverpudlians who changed the face of pop music, but she was one of our finest TV entertainment personalities. It was through programmes like Blind Date and Surprise, Surprise that so many people got to know and love her."

TV presenter Paul O'Grady, 60, who lives in Aldington, near Ashford, was close friends with Ms Black. He said this week: "We've been friends for nearly 20 years. She's like my sister. We had a week together in Barbados at the beginning of the year and I saw her on my birthday.

"I thought she was well. I can't believe it to tell you the truth."

Cheri Strudwick, marketing manager at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells added: "Cilla's personality sparkled on her TV shows - her great smile and sense of humour were completely endearing; we've sadly lost a true entertainer."

The singer married her loyal friend and manager Bobby Willis. He died in 1999 of lung cancer aged just 57, leaving her heartbroken. They were married for more than 30 years.

Ms Black leaves two grandchildren and three sons, Ben, Jack and Robert, who was also her agent.

Her single, Anyone Who Had A Heart, first released in 1964, this week climbed back into the charts following her death.

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BACK: Wingham's Paul Hollywood returns as co host with Mary Berry, and 12 contestants - along with presenters Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins in the Bake Off tent

Return of top TV show inspires us to get back into our kitchens

Millions of viewers tuned in to watch the return of the Great British Bake Off on BBC1 this week and, as one celebrity chef who works in Kent reveals, we still have a real appetite for baking up a treat

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT is the series which grips a nation - and Wednesday night saw the latest chapter in the Great British Bake Off phenomenon with the return of the new series.

As the line-up of new contestants found themselves struggling to concoct the perfect walnut cake, black forest gateau and Madeira cake, the chances are the kitchens of Kent will be buzzing again this weekend to the sound of whiskers and processors as we look to test our own culinary skills.

Celebrity chef Rosemary Shrager, a regular on Extra Slice - the BBC2 show which follows Bake Off - is convinced the show still manages to sprinkle magic dust on the baking industry.

Now running a bakery school in Tunbridge Wells, she says she sees the knock-on effect of the show at her business.

She told KoS: "People love to bake. When the show is on the bookings do improve which is good.

"It does encourage lots of people to come along, particular children, which I think is great. Any way to get them to start cooking at a young age is to be encouraged.

"Creating imaginative food is an art and shows like Bake Off can help start fans off. Even if they start slowly and build up to the more complex things, the end result is something you can stand back and admire.

"It may not be perfect first time out, but Bake Off can spur on an appetite for good cooking with decent ingredients.

"The show encourages people to learn a lot more about baking when it's on which is really refreshing. I love the show and enjoy doing the after-show with Jo Brand where we discuss in depth what has happened during that night's episode."

Co-hosted by Paul Hollywood, the celebrity baker who lives in Wingham, near Canterbury, last year's series saw popular Broadstairs contestant Chetna Makan reach the semi-finals (see box).

Gareth Hurford-Jones has been running the Lyminge Country Bakery in the village near Folkestone for two years with 15 staff.

He told us: "We love the Great British Bake Off and programmes like it. These shows are promoting what food could be like using traditional methods like ours.

"We were at a boot fair recently with 10 trays of our products and they all sold out within two hours.

"We were mobbed and wish we had taken another 10 trays."

Rob Rusbridge has run the Rusbridge Family Bakery in Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, since 1973.

He told us: "This show is great because it does encourage people to try new things and have a go themselves.

"We have seen a little bit of an upturn on the confectionary side, and Bake Off even sees people wanting to try different breads, which we do most of.

"I always watch the show and it is interesting to see what some people are trying. Anything that gets people in to the kitchen to experiment and come up with their own recipes is excellent.

"They also want to see what people like ourselves are producing and get back to the traditional way of eating."

■ **The Great British Bake Off is on at 8pm on Wednesday nights on BBC1.**

CHETNA STILL COOKING UP SUCCESS

WHEN Broadstairs mother Chetna Makan joined the line-up of contestants at the start of the last series, she can have little imagined the rollercoaster ride she would experience.

She soared to the semi-finals with her calm style and fusion of traditional British dishes with Indian flavours.

Paul Hollywood dubbed her 'the Queen of Flavour'. And since leaving the show, she has forged a new career.

She moved to Kent from India in 2003 with her husband Gaurav Gupta and now have two children; Sia, seven, and Yuv, five.

At her home, she told us: ''Since I was on Bake Off I have been kept tremendously busy.

''I was lucky enough to get a publisher interested in putting out a book full of my recipes and that has taken months and months of work to get done.

''It is all set to come out next April, so you can see there is a lot that needs doing, but I am really enjoying it.''

The former fashion designer with her own label says she took up baking to embrace the British way of life. She loves to combine her mother's traditional Indian recipes and flavours with British dishes.

''I have also started my own YouTube channel with the help of two young lads from Ashford who are starting out as film makers. I am trying to film a recipe a week and like to keep them pretty simple so people do go and make them for themselves and not just think 'Oh, I might try that one day'.''

As for advice for this year's contestants?

She said: ''They will have a tough time impressing the judges. As the series goes on, they will have to come up with more and more interesting recipes to stay ahead. It is very tough.''

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TAILORING: The display will feature fashion plates and pieces of clothing, with a special focus on Victorian fashions created in Tunbridge Wells by firms still operating today..

High fashion focus as collection looks at the art of men's tailoring

Molly Kersey speaks to those behind a special exhibition now running at Tunbridge Wells museum

WHILE women's fashion throughout the ages has been well documented, the impact and evolution of men's clothing has rarely been subject to such scrutiny.

But now a new display at the Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery is hoping to change that.

It will be looking at the art of tailoring, and the amount of work that has gone into creating men's suits throughout the ages.

It hopes to shine a spotlight on a quite remarkable industry.

Drawing on the spa town's own history, in the 1800s, Victorian gentlemen were catered for by a variety of tailors, drapers and gentlemen's outfitters in and around the area.

Liz Douglas, collections development manager at the museum, which is based within the town hall complex, said: "It's about the history of tailoring. We have got a lot of women's wear within the museum's collection and not a lot of men's.

"It's been really overlooked as a part of fashion history. It's very much a London invention that has been exported around the world.

"The engineering that goes into a man's suit is more concentrated than women's tailoring.

"With women's clothes you might have had a corset to alter the shape that was being created, with men's it is much more subtle.

"It's not as dramatic as corsetry. It's shoulder pads and the position of the pockets and the lapels. Even with the lapel a lot of the hand stitching is designed to make it lie flat.

"If you buy a cheap suit it sometimes doesn't fit across the back, so it's about getting all the proportions right," she added.

"We have been really lucky because Tunbridge Wells has an amazing history of tailors in the town."

In fact, two local tailors - Simmonds, based on Calverley Road, and Colin De'Ath Bespoke Tailors, based in Southborough, have lent objects related to tailoring to be used in the museum's display.

OVERLOOKED: Men's fashion has not received as much attention over the years, but museum's display intends to change that. Pictures: STEVE POSTON

Simmonds has a long history of tailoring in the county - the tailor's was first established in Tunbridge Wells in 1837 at a premises in Chapel Place, before moving to its current location in 1928.

Properly tailored suits were extremely important for Victorian men.

"It was the age of industrialisation and to be a professional looking businessman you needed a suit that was presentable," said Ms Douglas.

"There wasn't the off the peg clothing that you can buy today, you couldn't just go into a shop and get one. You needed something tailored to your size. The tailor would be able to make the alterations neccessary so that it would fit like a glove."

And it was a complicated process.

"I think before the sewing machine everything had to be done by hand, and even with the sewing machine the detailing like pockets and collars and lapels are still done by hand. It's a pain staking process," she added.

So why has tailoring been such an overlooked area?

Ms Douglas said: "I think it's partly to do with how women's fashion has traditionally been more elaborate and decorative. Also, a lot of it has to do with how clothes come to museums. You will often get bridal gowns or christening gowns donated but very rarely men's outfits."

Ms Douglas said that a late 1800s pattern book was one of the highlights of the display.

"It's from Simmonds," she said. "It's got 20 or so descriptions for different men's wear garments in it, there are some historic prints you wouldn't really recognise today.

"There is a coach man's uniform. Back in the day when you would have these big estates, Downton Abbey style, you would have needed to have uniforms created for the people who worked there, so the local tailor would have these prints to hand and it has the alterations that the tailor needed to make, to fit the men.

"There are written descriptions such as 'stooping shoulders' and 'more rotund'."

And fashion plates - images featured in magazines showcasing new or current fashions - are included.

"Colin De'Ath has leant us a deconstructed suit jacket. It's one that he would have been working on. It shows the painstaking process that goes into a hand made bespoke jacket," said Ms Douglas.

"We have got an old sewing machine and a little boy's waistcoat.

"The fashion plates are the backdrop for the display. The fasion plates themselves and the images came from a magazine called Gentleman's Magazine. You would take them into your tailor and say - I want this made. So the fasion plates are showcasing the styles of Victorian men.

"It's quite interesting to see - the boys in the images look like little men."

The display will form part of the museum's collection of British costume, accessories and textiles - which currently comprises of some 7,500 objects. It will be spanning men's tailoring from the mid-eighteenth century to the present day.

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READY: Nigel Havers and Christine Kavanagh will be performing at Dartford's Orchard Theatre next month

The importance of turning back the clock for a classic

Molly Kersey meets stars of upcoming production of Oscar Wilde performance

THE work of the iconic writer Oscar Wilde has been admired for decades.

The literary legend wrote a number of novels and poems, becoming one of London's most popular playwrights during the early 1890s.

And one of his most well-loved plays, The Importance of Being Earnest, continues to raise laughs and applause from audiences to this day.

Now, a new production - starring Nigel Havers, Martin Jarvis and Christine Kavanagh- will put a fresh spin on the comic play.

Two of the stars of the production - Mr Havers and Ms Kavanagh - made their way to the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, for a Q&A session last week - where they discussed what the show had in store for audiences.

They spoke to KoS about the upcoming performance.

Mr Havers, who has previously starred in TV shows including Downton Abbey and Coronation Street, said: "I did this play in 1984 at the National Theatre with Martin Jarvis, and Dame Judi Dench played Lady Bracknell. We did it on and off for a year and a half and when we finished he said 'we must do this again sometime, it's such a wonderful play'."

The pair met for lunch some years later and decided that they were going to do just that.

There was, however, just one small hitch.

"We were too old to play those parts," explained Mr Havers.

"So we had to find a different way of doing it."

This led to the creation of a 'play within a play', which tells the story of an amateur performance group who are putting on a production of The Importance of Being Earnest.

"You get this funny overtone where you are introduced to the characters," Mr Havers explained.

"Some people came to see the show not knowing what to expect, they couldn't work out what was going on. So there was an element of surprise.

"Things go wrong, and people love it when things go wrong. We have someone on stage as a prompt - so if anyone ever forgets their lines we have a good excuse!"

Ms Kavanagh added: "Many people felt this made it more accessible and more contemporary. Audiences love to be in on the joke.

"When Martin Jarvis is being interviewed to find out if he is a suitable man for one of the character's daughter to marry, he says 'I'm 29' and you get roars of laughter."

The Bunbury Company of Players' production of the Importance of Being Earnest lampoons and exposes the hypocrisy of Victorian society.

It tells the story of two bachelors - the dependable John Worthing and upper-class playboy Algernon Moncrieff.

Both of them feel compelled to take on different identities in order to pursue two eligible women - Cecily Cardew and Gwendolyn Fairfax - with their subterfuge creating comedic results.

Their misadventures lead to brushes with both the redoubtable Lady Bracknell and the uptight Miss Prism.

And Ms Kavanagh, who has

Continued on page 51

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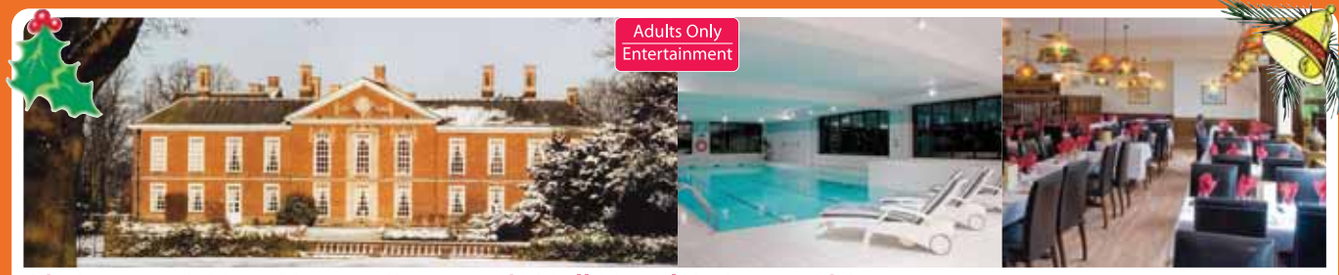

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20 November, 2015 • 3 nights half board-plus, £**129**pp • Quote: CC11-KOS

Join us for an over 40s Christmas party weekend to remember as we re-wind the decades and go back to the 60s, 70s and 80s at Pontins Pakefield, by the sea near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Enjoy live music from original 70s band Brotherhood of Man, 60s rockers The Swinging Blue Jeans and the new touring show Whitney – Queen of The Night. Add 3 Free Drinks per person per night and you've got the perfect recipe for a great party weekend.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrade available • Towels & linen

Worthing Winter Warmer Party - Chatsworth Hotel

29 Jan & 5 Feb, 2016 • 2 nights half board-plus, £**129**pp • Quote: WG1/2-KOS

Join us in Worthing for a Winter Warmer Party and enjoy £1 drinks and live entertainment every night. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

INCLUDED: £1 drinks from 7pm to 10pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine • 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & free wifi

We Love the 60s Spring Party Weekend

11 March, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, £**129**pp • Quote: PS3-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Spring Party - for over 40s only - to blow away the winter cobwebs. We've lined up a brilliant entertainment showbill featuring The Ivy League, The Merseybeats and The Pacemakers plus tributes to The Beach Boys and The Beatles. With non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and free drinks every night, this is one party weekend you're sure to love.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full 60s theme entertainment programme • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrade available

Back to the 60s Carry on New Year Party

8 January, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, from £**229**pp • Quote: BP1-2-KOS

Join us for a private New Year party at Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel on the Isle of Wight as we extend the festivities into January and take you on a trip back to the 1960s. Our exclusive weekend, designed specially for the over 40s generation, includes a gala New Year's Eve party PLUS Free Drinks every night from 6pm-midnight. The entertainment line-up features authentic 60s Bands The Fourmost and Union Gap, plus a tribute to Dusty Springfield.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - beers - house lager, bitter and cider; branded spirits including Smirnoff, Bacardi, Bells, Gordon's Gin, Courvoisier, Lambs Navy Rum, Martini & Harveys Bristol Cream Sherry; wine by the glass; draught soft drinks and cordials • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • 1960s themed live nightly entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades to main hotel available • Return car ferry crossing Portsmouth-Fishbourne or Lymington-Yarmouth

Come Dancing Carry on New Year Party

8 January, 2016 • 3 nights half board-plus, from £**279**pp • Quote: BP1-3-KOS

Dance enthusiasts can enjoy dance tuition, dance cabaret, social dancing, a Gala Ball and much more at our Carry on New Year party weekend at Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel on the Isle of Wight. Six Times UK Ten Dance Champions Richard Still and Morgan Hemphill will dance 2 evening sessions for us and also provide a Latin workshop. Dance tuition - up to 8 hours - is by Philip Wylie of Ballroom & Latin Dance specialists **Holiday & Dance**. There are reserved tables and seating exclusively for a maximum of 200 dance guests who also have access to the show lounge with our super 60s entertainment line-up.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night • 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts • Live nightly entertainment • Social dancing • Dance demonstrations and tuition • Gala New Year's Eve Ball • 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades to main hotel available • Return car ferry crossing Portsmouth-Fishbourne or Lymington-Yarmouth

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Continued from page 49

previously starred in films including The King of Chaos and Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking, thinks that the age of the actors who are playing these comical characters is actually quite an advantage.

"Now we are so much more experienced, we have been in the business for 30 to 40 years," she explained.

"For the age of the cast we are very light on our feet.

"It's very fluid and fast and we all love the play."

Mr Havers agreed, adding: "It's quite a complicated play.

"It's Oscar Wilde at his best. It's a crazy piece of work, it's fantastic.

"Oscar had such a nimble mind that he assumed young people aged around 20 could do the same thing but they can't always.

"We are a little too old for the roles but we are young at heart."

Mr Havers will be reprising his role as Algernon Moncrieff, starring alongside Martin Jarvis - who will take on the role of John Worthing.

"Martin and I are very close, I can tell what he is thinking before he is thinking it," said Mr Havers.

Ms Kavanagh will star as Cecily Cardew, and Sian Phillips will play Lady Bracknell.

Ms Kavanagh said: "At my age I get to play an 18-year-old, so what a gift! It's my idea of heaven to turn the clock back and start all over again.

"Sian Phillips is an example to us all, she's a consumate professional, she swoops on to the stage and is so commanding. In real life she is an absolute darling."

NEW: Nigel Havers found a different way to reprise the role. Picture: TRISTRAM KENTON

Rehearsals for the play are due to begin imminently and Mr Havers and Ms Kavanagh - who have known each other for a number of years - are looking forward to the challenge ahead.

Speaking about the transition from the screen to the stage, Ms Kavanagh said: "For the last few years I have preferred the theatre.

"The joy of theatre is rehearsing," she added.

"It is such a luxury to get to rehearse."

The new production will be directed by Lucy Bailey and it is designed by William Dudley.

Both Ms Kavanagh and Mr Havers praised the work of the designer, and explained that the set is not what you would typically expect from a play that is based in the Victorian era, but that it actually has more of an 'arts and crafts' style setting.

"It's astonishing," explained Mr Havers.

"It's based on a beautiful property in the Lake District."

Ms Kavanagh agreed.

"William Dudley has taken such care," she added.

The Importance of Being Earnest will be coming to the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from September 22 to 26.

"It's a wonderful theatre. I have performed here a number of times before," said Mr Havers.

Tickets to the show are available to buy now and performances will be taking place at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

For more information about the performance or to book tickets you can visit the theatre's website at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Alternatively you can call the ticket office on 01322 220000.

The limelight is on Malvolio

CHARGED production I, Malvolio will be performed at the Theatre Royal Margate on March 3 2016 at 7.30pm.

Tickets for the show are £14 or £12 with concessions.

To book call 01843 292795.

Music of Bon Jovi returns

TRIBUTE show The Bon Jovi Experience will be performed at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, on October 10.

The performance will be taking place at 7.30pm and tickets are £18.50. Visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk to book.

Swinging into summer

A SHOW with an emphasis on music, Swing Into Summer, will be performed at the Margate Winter Gardens on Thursday (August 13) at 2.30pm.

Tickets are £9.50. To book call 01843 868302.

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Hits of Elvis in new musical

A PRODUCTION featuring the songs of legendary performer Elvis Presley, Love Me Tender, will be performed at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, from August 31 to September 5. Call 0844 871 7620 to book.

A chance to relive history

THE seventh annual Combined Ops weekend will be taking place at Headcorn Aerodrome on August 15 and 16. It will feature a variety of vintage and modern aircraft displays on the ground and in the air, as well as live history re-enactments and arena events.

To book visit www.combinedops.co.uk.

TV host is back on stage

HOST of Channel 4's Stand Up for the Week Paul Chowdhry will bring his new stand-up show to the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on September 30.

To book visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

Much Ado About Nothing

THE Pantaloons will be presenting their version of well-loved Shakespeare play Much Ado About Nothing at an outdoor theatre event at Smallhythe Place in Tenterden.

It will take place on August 23 from 7pm to 9pm and tickets are £15 for adults and £8 for children. Booking is essential on 08442491895.

Red letter day for speed lovers as Brands Hatch is taken over

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

RACING: Drivers can go head to head against other competitors in Piaggio apes

MOST people will never get the opportunity to experience the thrill of taking to one of the country's most historic race tracks in a supercar, but on August 26, the track will come alive with amateurs, as 'Summer Speed' arrives in Kent.

The special day of racing thrills take place at Brands Hatch in West Kingsdown, which is taken over by experience company Red Letter Days - owned by BBC TV stars of Dragons Den, Theo Paphitis and Peter Jones.

Organisers say that it will have something for both committed petrol-heads desperate to fulfil their race driver dreams, as well as those who prefer a more relaxed pace of life.

Jon Abbey, driving expert at Red Letter Days told KoS it was going to be different to the standard driving experience.

He said: "A lot of companies sell the same sorts of driving experiences.

"We wanted to do something really different, and unique. That's why we have a whole host of experiences rather than just one. We wanted to create something which will be a really exclusive event."

It certainly looks like it'll live up to the hype, with monster truck rides, Piaggio ape racing, supercar driving, Segway riding and high speed passenger rides.

The day will also have a number of experiences for those who aren't interested in high-octane fun, with Chamneys offering mini massages and manicures for those who prefer a bit of pampering.

Mr Abbey said: "It isn't just the premium supercar racing that's taking place. We've got a range of lower priced experiences taking place as well, so it's perfect for summer holiday fun with the kids."

Dragons Den star, Theo Paphitis told KoS he was thrilled the day was going to take place at Brands Hatch.

He said: "What a fabulous opportunity for Red Letter Days to get on the track at such a well known and iconic venue.

"It promises to be an absolutely spectacular day for everyone who comes."

To find out more, or to buy tickets visit www.redletterdays.co.uk/summerspeed

Top chef keeps it sweet with book and NY diner

Michelin-starred chef Jason Atherton will be releasing new book about desserts called Social Sweets

LIKE many chefs, the Michelin-starred Jason Atherton has war wounds from his time in the kitchen. Worst of which is the "big scar" on his leg, the scene of a skin graft "many moons" ago.

"I dropped a pan of reduced veal stock and it stuck to my feet. I was only young, it was 1999, and I got rushed to hospital," explains Atherton, who appeared as a judge in Sky Living series My Kitchen Rules, alongside model-turned-chef Lorraine Pascale last year.

After six months off work, he went back to the kitchen on crutches and has since then, avoided staff changing hot pans of oil "like the plague". But as painful as the injury was and as much as it gave him "nightmares" afterwards, the 43-year-old also missed being in the throng of the restaurant.

Born in Sheffield, Atherton's foodie journey began after he moved to London when he was 16, and landed a job at a Michelin-starred restaurant as a pot washer. He worked his way up, eventually becoming a pastry chef, then head chef at Gordon Ramsay's Maze, and has since set up the popular Pollen Street Social in London's swanky Mayfair, and a string of other restaurants all over the world.

His workload shows no sign of stopping, with a newly launched eatery in New York and his latest book, Social Sweets, all coming out in the space of a few months earlier this spring.

SWEET: Mr Atherton has launched a new eatery in New York.

Putting out a book about desserts was a "logical step" for the chef, being as "99.9 per cent of people have a sweet tooth and like to finish off a meal with a dessert", he notes.

Clearly Atherton is in that number.

"Even though they're really cheesy to look at, one of my favourite things as a child was a Mr Kipling Bakewell Tart," he explains.

"I used to love having those, so being able to make a grown-up version of it is cool."

Committed as he is to perfecting his pudding recipes and bettering the service he offers in his restaurants, he admits his ambitions are only feasible thanks to the support of his wife, Irha, who works in the restaurant's head office.

"Without my wife, I wouldn't be where I am today," says Atherton, who lives in London with Irha and their two daughters.

"Her support and understanding of the journey we're on together and as a family is unbelievable.

"Everything in life is a compromise. Running a successful restaurant business is time consuming and on top of all that, pushing Pollen Street Social to be one of the best restaurants, not just in the UK but hopefully in the world, takes time and dedication.

"That and the travel, and being a father and writing cookbooks... You've got to be super dedicated, so her support is massive. I couldn't live without her."

Life of Amy is explored

DOCUMENTARY Amy will be screened at the Curzon Cinema, Canterbury, until Thursday (August 13).

The screenings will be taking place at 9pm daily or 8.30pm this evening (Sunday).

Directed by Asif Kapadia, the documentary is about music icon Amy Winehouse and it will explore her talent and her troubled personal life. For details and how to book visit www.curzoncinemas.co.uk.

Sound of Abba relived

A SHOW celebrating the sound of chart-topping group Abba will be coming to the Churchill Theatre, Bromley.

Waterloo - The Best of Abba Tribute Show, will look back at Agentha, Bjorn, Benny and Anni-Frid's rise to fame, featuring a full live cast, a band and costumes.

It will be performed at 7.30pm and tickets to the show are available now.

To book call 08448 717620.

Milton Jones performs

A COMEDIAN who has appeared in TV shows including Mock The Week and Live at the Apollo will be bringing his new show to Folkestone.

Milton Jones and the Temple of Daft will be performed at the Leas Cliff Hall on November 8 at 8pm.

Tickets to the show are available now and prices start at £27.90. To book visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone.

Singer releases album

A SINGER from Petts Wood will be releasing his new album in September.

Tony Momrelle will be releasing his new album, Keep Pushing, on September 25.

The album will be preceeded by the release of the album's debut single - Pick Me Up/Back Together Again - on September 11.

The singer will be touring ahead of the album's release. For details visit www.tonymomrelle.com.

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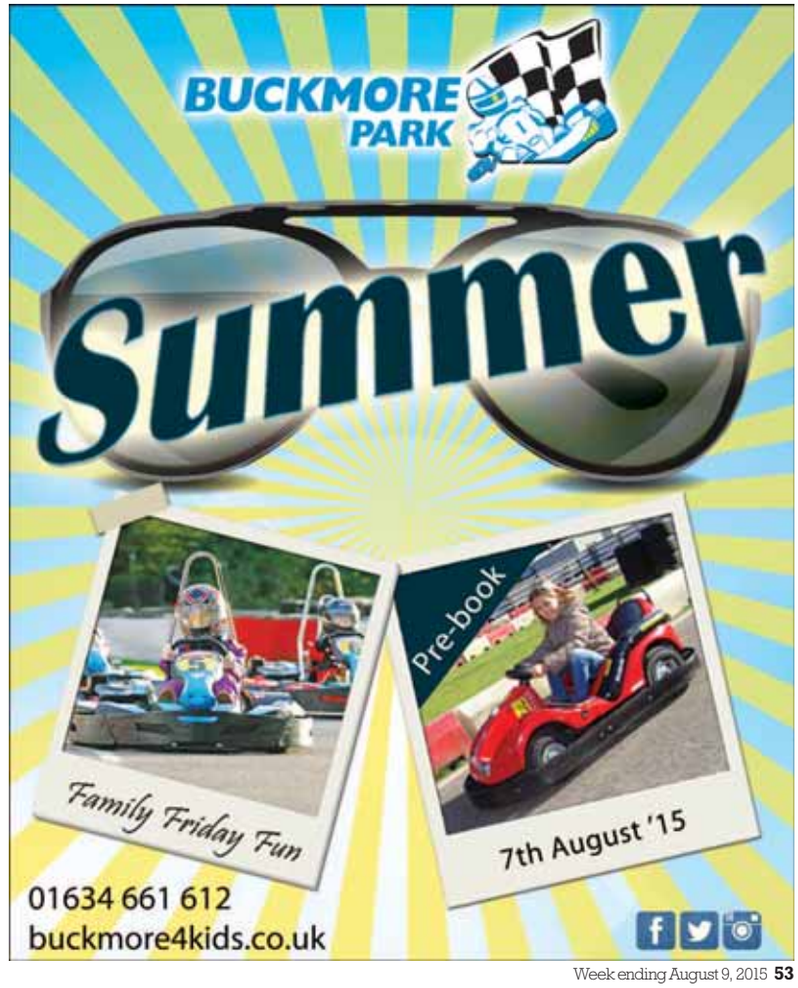

Striking a fantastic balance in Ibiza

TRAVEL REVIEW: Ibiza

by Lisa Haynes

HOW to strike a balance between hedonism and family time in Ibiza? The new Grand Palladium White Island Resort & Spa is a happy mix - like a beach club mixed with a kids club.

Opened earlier this summer, with over 400 rooms, this gleaming white five-star has a fresh and modern feel with white tile wet rooms and flashes of magenta and mosaic prints in bedrooms. Master suites with private roof terrace and Jacuzzi overlooking the sea are a wish-you-were-here highlight.

Positioned next to its older sister hotel Grand Palladium Palace, and joined by a wooden bridge, the double act allows for more choice when it comes to picking a pool or one of the four themed all-inclusive restaurants. The union makes the hotel complex the largest resort in Ibiza - complete with minigolf, spa, tennis courts and vast outdoor entertainment theatre to keep families, groups and couples entertained.

It's possible to dip into all three large pools in the same afternoon - we know, we tried. Kick back on Balinese-style loungers around White Island's lively pool with DJ-spun tunes; relax in cabanas at the wooden decked Bossa pool; or take little ones to the large family pool to splash in shallow waters.

The resort's Playa d'en Bossa location puts it in prime position for guests to enjoy the white sand beach, set just behind the hotel.

A quick stroll through the gate and you hit beach club restaurants like Nassau, but DJ beats are barely audible from the hotel grounds and there's a strict midnight shutdown policy.

For parents who fancy a chilled daytime sangria minus distractions, the hotel's Kids Club is on hand.

There's plenty to keep all ages occupied with shady indoor and outdoor spaces and different 'zones' catering for toddlers, juniors and teens.

The Zentropia spa is a must, minus kids - access is approximately £14.50 for hotel guests - with treatments like aromatic balance body massages and Biologique Recherge oxygen facials.

Apply a waterproof SPF and do a spa circuit of the sunny open-air thermal water pool with water jets, sensations shower and Jacuzzi beds, or relax at the dreamy indoor pool with overhead floating cloud lights, where you'll find Hamman, Finnish sauna, hydro massage points and a cold plunge pool.

Double rooms range from £168 based on two sharing on an all-inclusive basis. To find out more visit www.palladiumhotelgroup.com.

When your only wish is to roll back into your bed after a night at a club, Ushiala Ibiza Beach Hotel, Playa D'en Bossa, is your Ibiza nirvana. This is the hotel for guests who live, eat and breathe the music.

There are two accommodation options - club rooms with balconies and gardens that give you a bird's eye view of the open-air main stage, or the newer neighbouring Tower Hotel for some respite from the decibels.

Clad in gargantuan bright flowers, the Tower is like a VIP area of a club. Think gourmet multi-coloured jelly shots served on check-in, bonkers art installations of giant ants climbing the ceilings and mini private pools overlooking the main pool - by reservation only. VIP options continue with swish suites like 'The Fashion Victim' and 'The I'm On Top of the World' penthouse suite, where Leonardo DiCaprio once checked in.

Not for traditionalists, the Fashion Victim is decked out with a circular space bed, club size vodka bottles at the not-so-mini bar, and see-through shower next to the bedside table.

There are club nights virtually every day in peak-season with crowd-pullers like David Guetta playing on Mondays and Avicii on Sundays. The hotel starts the party early with music cranking up throughout the afternoon until the magic hour of 5pm, when the main DJ takes to the booth and you can feel the vibrations from your balcony. At midnight - and not a minute beyond - the lights and sound are pulled, leaving guests to after-party elsewhere... or sleep.

Double rooms range from £152 (two sharing) with breakfast. Visit www.ushuaiabeachhotel.com/en

STUNNING: Ibiza has a lot to offer to keep families, couples and groups entertained.

TRAVEL FACTS

BRITISH Airways is offering more than 20 summer departures to Ibiza from London City each week.

Flights start from £67 one way, which includes complimentary food and drink on board.

For more information about the flights available and prices you can visit their website at www.ba.com.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith

THE GIFT
(15, 108 mins) Thriller/Romance

SIMON Callem and his emotionally brittle wife Robyn move back to his hometown of Los Angeles, where he is eyeing a major promotion.

During a shopping trip, the Callems cross paths with Simon's old school chum Gordon Mosley. The following day, the Callems find a bottle of wine from Gordon on their doorstep. In the days that follow, Gordon arrives unannounced at the house while Simon is at work and forges an uneasy bond with Robyn, who grows concerned about an unspoken incident involving the men when they attended high school. Robyn enlists the help of friendly neighbour Lucy to uncover the truth.

FANTASTIC FOUR
(12A, 100 mins) Sci-fi/Fantasy

REED Richards is an inquisitive scientist, who has conducted experiments since his schooldays, which he hopes will reveal the secrets of the universe. He joins a privately funded program run by Dr Franklin Storm and develops a portal that permits inter-dimensional travel. Reed agrees to make the first jump as part of a five-person team comprising Dr Storm's two children, Sue and Johnny, computer scientist Victor von Doom and Ben Grimm. They teleport to an alternate universe, but disaster strikes during the mission and Victor is lost, presumed dead.

The four survivors return to the lab, blessed with startling new abilities.

Reed can stretch his human form to outrageous lengths and becomes Mr Fantastic, while Sue can become invisible and create force fields. Johnny can set himself ablaze and take flight as The Human Torch, and Ben is encased with stone body armour that allows him to perform feats of incredible strength as The Thing.

The four friends vow to use their extraordinary talents for the benefit of mankind, but meet their match in Victor, who survived his ordeal, and has been reborn as megalomaniacal supervillain Dr Doom.

MAX
(12A, 111 mins) Drama

KYLE Wincott follows his father into the Marine Corps and serves as a dog handler in Afghanistan, flanked by a Belgian Malinois called Max. During one mission, Kyle and his friend Tyler are confronted by a suicide bomber and Kyle is shot and killed. Two officers visit the home of Kyle's father Ray, mother Pamela and truculent younger brother Justin to deliver the devastating news. Max is consumed with grief by the loss. However, he calms down when he is beside Justin so the Wincotts agree to adopt Max. In the process, the dog helps Justin to come to terms with his aching loss and to reconnect with his loving parents.

By Hannah Stephenson
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LONGEVITY: Plants need to be watered and fed in order to thrive, says horticulturist Christine Walker.

Tips on waterwise gardening

AS summer progresses, some containers will lose momentum by late July and August, particularly if they haven't been fed and watered religiously.

But horticulturist Christine Walkden, a regular on TV and radio, reckons there's still plenty of scope for enjoying colour throughout late summer and beyond.

The key to longevity is continuous deadheading, watering and feeding, she insists, and if your bedding lobelia and bacopa is looking straggly, give it a trim with scissors and a good feed and it should perk up again.

If, however, some of your pots look like they're not going to recover, particularly if they have dried out, it may be time to visit the garden centre to replenish those specimens with some healthier ones.

"We are past the summer equinox, so we're less than 12 weeks away before the clocks go back, but how long our late summer blooms last largely depends on what the weather does," she said. "But you can buy late-flowering chrysanthemums - you can get dwarf bedding ones - and some garden centres still have dahlias which have some way to go. August is a funny month for in-between plants."

If you want bright, strong colours, try Dahlia 'Roxy', a deep magenta-pink, and 'Bishop of Oxford' a deep marmalade-orange. Alternatively, replace one with the crimson-black-flowered and beautiful 'Bishop of Auckland', which will need supporting with twiggy hazel but is still suitable for pots.

"Other plants that will be around in late summer include Cyclamen coum, C. hederifolium, hesperantha, lots of violas, lilies, cosmos, colchicums, dwarf rudbeckia and dwarf asters, so there's quite a lot of choice.

"You need a good solid foundation of foliage colour in your late summer pots. Hebes work really well at this time of year. 'James Stirling' has beautiful, rusty orange foliage and looks great with hesperantha or rudbeckia. Always go for contrast. If I have a dark foliage bottom, I would go for a light top. The best advice is to go into a garden centre or nursery and see what's there and really what's looking good at this time," she said.

Other good foliage colour for late season pots comes from heucheras, ferns and hostas, if they haven't been chomped by snails, as well as a variety of smaller euonymus.

If you're replanting, use John Innes No 2, Christine advises, which has better structure, better drainage, more nutrients in it and greater stability so your pots are less likely to blow over. Of course, if you want late summer colour and you're planting afresh, you will need to water new plants regularly, says Christine, who will be giving a talk on waterwise gardening at Stockport Flower Show in August.

The show runs from August 20 to 23. For more details go to www.southportflowershow.co.uk.

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

There'll be more delays to come

MICHAEL Vick (KoS, letters, last week), why are you surprised at the lack of any progress on Sittingbourne's regeneration?

Swale voters keep on re electing the same useless Tory borough councillors.

No doubt they are waiting for another consultation, or to hold another meeting, which will waste more tax payers' money.

Don't hold your breath, for anything happening soon, this has been going on for years.

We will probably get the same eye-wash at the next council elections.

RP Phillips,
Iwade

Man, not cats, are the killers

'KILLER cats' said your letter writer (KoS, 26.7) - 'killer man' would be more appropriate.

Damage done to wildlife is minimal from the feline angle, in comparison to the wider picture, created by short-sighted man.

Decline in the bird population is due to human interference with nature, pesticides, removal of habitat and the food that goes with it.

Several years ago, a bird survey took place here through the RSPB, involving four monthly visits. Many different species were seen and documented; these included a number of 'at risk' birds and an extra special one.

This rare jewel put in an appearance just as the surveyor was about to leave. The sighting made his day, and mine also. But it is interesting to note that one of the old buildings where the sighting was made is home to several feral cats. Wildlife abounds, including a number of moorhens.

Suddenly a magpie swooped down on one of its chicks. The parents swiftly went to the rescue and no damage ensued.

This predator bore no resemblence to a cat.

Mary McNulty,
Brenchley

Street lighting quote error

IN reading the article (KoS, street lights, last week), I found that there is a mistake present.

In the article is says "but during the actual meeting the Liberal Democrat claims Cllr Balfour did not say the words 'going forward'.

This is not correct and adds confusion to the article.

If I was going to make a claim at all here it would point out that Mr Balfour's answer, recorded in advance of the meeting, did say 'going forward', regardless of how Mr Balfour read the text on the day.

I would not have claimed that he did not say this as if I am disputing the fact.

Brian Clark,
Lib Dem, KCC councillor,
Maidstone South

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Just how should we tackle Calais crisis?

WHILE the nightmare of Operation Stack continues (KoS, last week) and the impotent prime minister David Cameron stands around stating the 'bleedin' obvious', may I be the first to offer some constructive solutions?

Firstly, we should make it plain that all illegal migrants making it to Treasure Island, as they call the UK, will be shipped home and no money!

Secondly, we should look to work through the European Union to get 'team' France to move the holding camp miles back from Calais.

Thirdly, use some of the 20,000 troops, many of who were sacked jsut days away from qualifying for their full pension, to reinforce our borders.

We could do that, instead of paying quangocrats £240,000 for a three-day week!

Fourthly, we should tell the 'bleedin' hearts' we already import a net 300,000 people into our tiny country each year, we are building a house every seven minutes and are £1.5 trillion in debt.

Asylum seekers are, by international law, supposed to go to the nearest 'free' country, not tramp across half the world to Treasure Island.

Isn't France a free country, so why risk lives coming here?

But then common sense was never the forte of the 'great pretenders' and the interests of those already here. They tend to be the last to be considered.

New balls please!

Phil Granger
West Malling

The conundrum of how to handle the migrants gathering in Calais continues to dominate the news agenda. But what do you think?

Why not share your views and join the debate?

Write or email to the address on the left..

Oh yes...it's back once again

READER Mary McNulty (KoS, 26.07) is incorrect in saying that the saga involving Ray Duff began with him challenging Christian teaching.

It began when he and I challenged the bizarre views of a reader called John Humphrey who claimed that most homophobic bullying was perpetrated by gay people trying to encourage young vulnerable people to 'become gay'.

Such nonsense needed to be challenged, but in the course of doing so I believe Ray Duff made a tactical error by straying into the arena of Biblical quotes and historic doctrine.

That caused Phil Granger to get involved. He is a regular contributor whose views on so many other issues I have often admired. However, on this occasion, he decided to resort to a rather cheap response, including the phrase 'the gospel according to St Duff'.

I suppose it shouldn't have been a surprise as he and Ray Duff 'locked horns' many years ago regarding climate change.

Somehow though, in the course of the latest exchanges, the conversation was steered back to that topic. That was unfortunate, because the central issue of homosexuality and the views of John Humphrey, Mary McNulty and Phil Granger towards it, was never discovered.

I asked John Humphrey the question 'Who are Earth would choose to be gay?". He did not respond. Despite that, Mary McNulty wrote in and said his letter was 'inspirational' and that Ray Duff and I had 'let ourselves down badly', just for challenging his views.

I suspect that the reason readers have never learned what they really think, is because they regard homosexuals as second class citizens who should not be allowed to marry and probably shouldn't be allowed to enjoy many of the rights we heterosexuals take for granted, but not one of them is prepared to openly declare such views. We don't know if they think a gay person cannot also be a devout Christian.

We don't know their attitude towards gay clergy. Should all such people be supported or condemned?

One can only speculate on what their overall view might be, but it's probably the usual 'fudge'. 'You can be homosexual, but please don't actually fall in love with someone of the same sex, because that might mean you want to have a physical relationship with them and, heaven forfend, that would never do'.

Chris Hudson-Gool,
Maidstone

We need you here Obama!

WHEN President Obama visited Kenya recently, the Kenyan government repaired the pot holes.

Please, Mr President, could you visit Kent?

Ron Cadenhead,
Challock

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent

Peacock butterfly in Lydd

by **Joan Guyll, Lydd**

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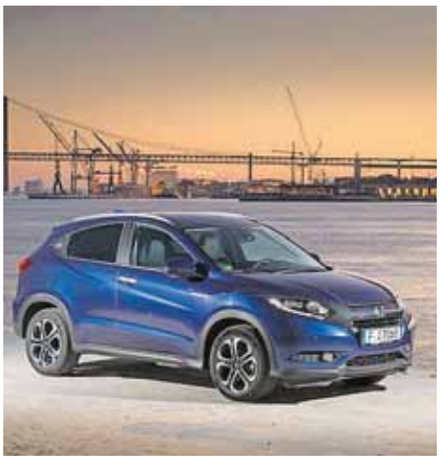
Please note, our relationship with MyFerryLink has now come to an end. We thank them for their long support.

driving

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



RETURN: Axed in its previous incarnation, hopes are far higher for the revamped and rather tasty looking HR-V

After ten years, Honda is back with 'youthful' SUV

ON the eve of Honda's re-introduction of the HR-V, you could now say the first version was ten years ahead of its time.

It was 2005 when the Japanese marque axed the original, after an unremarkable six years seeking to tap into an elusive SUV market for younger buyers.

Ten years on and the SUV/crossover market is so hot that there is definitely room for a model so squarely aimed at the young and image-conscious.

And while the new HR-V (£17,995) is smart and rakish, Honda also claims a practical and roomy cabin with class-leading boot space - 453 litres with rear seats up/1,026 litres seats down – plus the brand's unique 'Magic Seats', allowing extra loading configurations and under seat stowage.

A tempting £149/month 5.9 per cent APR deal with 30 per cent deposit should also help towards Honda's expectation that 70 per cent of new HR-V customers will come from those who hadn't considered a Honda before.

Many will be young singles and pre-family couples who are lifestyle and design conscious, adds Honda.

Two engines are offered: an all-new 130 PS (128bhp) 1.5 litre i-VTEC petrol and a 120 PS (118bhp) 1.6 litre i-DTEC diesel (from £19,745.00) with six-speed manual gearboxes or a newly-developed CVT (petrol models only) automatic claimed to feel like driving a conventionally geared auto.

Standard kit includes climate and cruise controls and dusk-sensing automatic headlamps, while upgrading to mid-grade SE trim (from £19,745) adds premium features like rain-sensing wipers, front and rear parking sensors and six-speaker audio upgrade.

Honda also believes it has stolen a march in the segment with a tilt-and-slide opening panoramic glass sunroof on flagship models, adding to airiness of the interior.

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KENT LIFE

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Passat escapes the WYSIWYG feeling

No longer struck by a feeling of déjà vu, you can appreciate new style and quality in the latest Passat as VW looks to force the model back on to buyers' top table

YOU might dismiss the new VW Passat as yet more of the 'what you see is what you get' format of the two previous generations.

Its predecessor, in particular, never really banished the impression that it was a clone of what had gone before, despite VW claims about a squillion new parts beneath the metal.

This time though, the Passat has a style and more upmarket appeal that was missing before.

Yes, there is the same practicality that causes the Passat estate to outsell the saloon, but slick finishing inside and out make it far more eye-catching; so much so, that the VW threatens so-called premium rivals like the BMW 3 Series, Merc C-Class and the A4, from VW sister brand Audi.

And if you check out the estate version, as tested here, the Passat also easily outguns the above cars for practicality; more like 'lifestyle estates', they sacrifice load-lugging for style, but the VW has the style... and the load space.

This pushes it to the top of the class with a 650-litre boot - some 150 litres more than its most obvious estate rivals, the Vauxhall Insignia, Ford Mondeo and Mazda 6.

Fold the seats down and you liberate a total of 1,780 litres – Citroen's small Nemo van carries just 720 more in its boxy body.

Part of the story here is, through ramping up its WYSIWYG approach of the past, VW has given this Passat a longer wheelbase, liberating greater cabin space within broadly the same exterior dimensions as before.

Apart from that huge load area, you also get acres of space, allowing back seat passengers to really stretch out.

Such luxury is then enhanced by limo-like refinement; VW has done much across its range to cut down on mechanical, road and turbulence intrusion into the cabin, and the Passat takes this even further on.

VW Passat Estate GT 2.0TDI (190) DSG

Price:	from £30,910
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Ford Mondeo

It's not a bad drive either; the new car is about the weight of a small person lighter this time, which makes it feel quite nimble for a relatively big car and while there is not a huge amount of feedback from the wheel, the Passat can be hustled along nicely.

It feels grippy and secure on corners even if the suspension is set up more for comfort than sporty driving even in the GT format of the test car.

Launched earlier this year, there isn't currently a great deal of engine choice and no petrol units at all, but that's hardly surprising at this level of the market; our car's 187bhp 2.0-litre low emission (120g/km) diesel was more than powerful enough for a fully laden outing, and frugal with it too – I averaged close to the official 61.4mpg (combined) on a motorway run.

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Model shown is AYGO x-cite 5 door 1.0 VVT-i Manual at £11,695. Prices correct at time of going to press. *4.9% APR Representative and £250 Finance Deposit Allowance available on new retail orders of AYGO when ordered between 1st July and 30th September 2015 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 31st December 2015 on a 42 month AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0-35% deposit. †1 year's free comprehensive insurance offer is subject to purchase being made via Toyota Financial Services on a Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) only and is available on AYGO models (excluding X grade) when ordered and financed between 1st July and 30th September 2015. Vehicles must be registered by 31st December 2015. All drivers must be aged 21 years and over. Offer is limited to the insured plus up to four additional drivers. The insured and all drivers must have held a full UK driving licence for a minimum of 2 years and had no more than 1 fault claim in the last 3 years. Offer only available to customers with no more than 1 minor motoring conviction in the last 3 years. Standard Toyota Motor Insurance Terms & Conditions apply (available on request) - these will be confirmed in the policy document. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC; registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Excess miles over contracted charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through AccessToyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

AYGO x-cite 5 door 1.0 VVT-i Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 68.9 (4.1). CO_2 Emissions 95g/km. The mpg & CO_2 figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

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Women Seeking

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ESSEX lady, mid 60's, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4288 Box No: 418117**

RACHEL attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403**

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4298 Box No: 418167**

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243**

ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks broadminded man of any age/location for no strings discreet times, games and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4290 Box No: 412369**

FEMALE, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0906 515 4291 Box No: 366019**

GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435**

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874**

SAMANTHA, solvent, sensual business women, 38yrs, travels a lot and seeks fun on the road. I'm married so please be discreet. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4495859**

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603**

JASMINE, 22yrs, seeks older gent for daytime meetings as she works a nightshift most days. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4495860**

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537**

CAROLINE, sophisticated feminine lady, just turned 40 and wants to meet new friends. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4656850**

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383**

CLARE, 29, works abroad but back for a few weeks, seeking new men friends. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4646634**

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127**

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025**

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435**

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTM professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569**

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349**

ALISON 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517**

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497**

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515**

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215**

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211**

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171**

JACKIE 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297**

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233**

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195**

TERESA 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081**

LUCY stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks likeminded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079**

PETITE blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual seeks younger male for friendship and discreet fun. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077**

SARAH 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841**

ANGIE attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, WLTM honest, fun male for possible ltr. looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827**

LISA attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549**

SUE 65, 5ft 8ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, WLTM kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735**

BLONDE female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675**

INTELLIGENT funny guy without a huge ego required for damaged heart. Casey 39, size 10, curves in all the right paces, pretty, kind, loving, genuine, romantic and available. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415509**

BLACK lady 43, sincere, down to earth, fun loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, seeking white gent with GSOH, sincere and down to earth. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415477**

JENNY voluptuous blonde tanned well-presented female, enjoys being and giving pampering, cooking, cosy nights, looking for some broadminded excitement. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415399**

JOYCE 39, attractive GSOH, loves nights out, honest, loyal, fun to be with, looking for mature male for adult companionship, meals out and hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415561**

NICOLETTE 32 petite professional attractive black female looking for similar hardworking white male who like me loves life and is serious about finding a LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415545**

MANDY 35, petite attractive slim female with very GSOH, likes to keep fit, meals in/out, WLTM genuine child friendly guy/dad for fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415513**

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 oer message received. mydate24

MALE 57, seeking honest, reliable, genuine lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418535**

69YR old male ,professional, 5ft 10ins, fit, medium build, young outlook, reliable, sincere, likes most things, seeks slim, slender, uncomplicated lady. Kent/Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418531**

RICHARD 63, N/S, clean-shaven, likes meals out, days out, classic cars, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418517**

JOHN young 50, tall, slim, hardworking, seeking business/professional female for discreet meetings, can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418461**

JONATHAN good looking, considerate, long curly hair, N/S, seeks tall, slim female, 30-45. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418451**

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611**

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easygoing, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539**

ASHFORD male, 66, GSOH, easy going, smoker, down to earth, adventurous, seeks likeminded female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416845**

55YR old male, 5ft 9ins, slim, likes swimming, pool, seeking female for fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418265**

COMPANION sought, 50-60's by slim, young looking 65yr old man for cinema, music, eating, drinking, talking and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418257**

JOHN nice looking, brown curly hair, gentle, understanding, seeks tall, slim lady for daytime no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418207**

BRIAN happy go lucky, genuine, loving, likes nights in, DVDs, meals out, seeking genuine lady for loving, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418197**

MALE widower, N/S, likes reading, walking, WLTM lady 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418173**

COME dine with me. Attractive black British male 50 yrs, 6ft, medium building, working, GSOH, romantic and genuine WLTM similar female. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4763687**

PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416421**

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077**

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397**

MALE widower, N/S, seeks buxom lady, 50-70, likes reading, 60's music, pub quizzes and crosswords. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417905**

BRIAN 71, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, music, walks, seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417697**

PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195**

PAUL 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985**

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

MALE 71, Tidy, OHAC WLTM Lady late 60s early70s for easy friendship. Likes animals. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4757205**

YOUNG 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417909**

GOOD looking fit male, romantic kind and passionate, with lots of love to give WLTM a mature lady 55 to 65 for LTR. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4760779**

MICK 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691**

ROAD worker looking for fun times and hopefully more. Great sense of humour. Laughs a lot. Looking for the same in lady. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4753610**

ROCKABILLY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750**

MALE 48, looking for fun loving female to enjoy outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212**

ANDY 5ft 5ins, retired, 69, solvent, likes most things, meals out, holidays, golf, swimming, GSOH, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417821**

67YR old male, slim, 5ft 5ins, many interests, likes holidays, meals out, seeking slim female 55-65 with GSOH to share TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414023**

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wining, dining and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787**

MICK 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691**

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789**

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719**

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175**

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929**

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015**

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HAPPY go lucky guy 62, GSOH, seeks fun loving lady, 48-65 for coastal walks, lunches and fun days out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417707**

BRIAN 71, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, music, walks, seeks female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417697**

ROCKABILLY guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750**

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611**

JACK 47, tall, good-looking, average build, GSOH, seeks broadminded female for discreet no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416867**

MIKE Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275**

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611**

CARING man enjoys going out, looking for someone to take out and have a laugh and to share some nights in! **Text only to Mailbox No: 4736191**

ED, retired Essex guy, astute & wise. N/S. no ties, with looks & humour seeks younger female needing life's mentor/tutor. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4485189**

GENUINE fun sexy healthy guy 55, with no ties, looking to date attractive lady 45/57 for fun times and more. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4717147**

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MALE likes CD, seeking similar male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418513**

GAY male 54 years old, seeks gay male 40 to 42 years old for 121 long lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4732986**

BI male, slim, passive, seeks older bi M, 75- 90, for gentle fun and friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4398888**

MAIDSTONE bi male, clean-shaven, N/S, seeks similar bi male, N/S for meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416737**

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Here at Archant Kent we are looking for an office based Sales Executive based in Ashford to support and increase business in our publications in print and online as we continue to grow. We are looking for an ambitious person to join our successful sales team. Ideally you will be an IT literate individual who is tasked focused with a good eye for detail. You must be able to communicate well both verbally and in writing.

With our excellent product training and our continuous development programme, we'll show you how to develop first class solutions for our customers, cultivate excellent business relationships and present effective and innovative ideas that will provide real value and response for our customers.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL HAVE:

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In return we are offering up to £18k basic with bonus OTE potential of 5k. The exceptional benefits include five weeks annual leave, and a contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period). A wide range of voluntary benefits include a cycle scheme, childcare vouchers, contributory private health scheme and Archant Gold (charity matched funding).

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With our excellent product training and our continuous development programme, we'll show you how to develop first class solutions for our customers, cultivate excellent business relationships and present effective and innovative ideas that will provide real value and response for our customers.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL HAVE:

- A passion for publishing and lifestyle magazines
- An understanding of brand awareness and advertising solutions
- The ability to produce and action effective ideas and promotions
- Proven face-to-face B2B sales experience
- Resilience and influential communication skills to overcome objections
- The ability to secure new business and manage existing accounts
- The self-motivation and organisation to work from home
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In return we are offering up to £23k basic with bonus OTE potential of £5k per annum as well as a company car, laptop and phone.

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Hours: 30 per week
Salary: £12,172 p.a
Closing date: midday Friday 21st August
Interviews: week commencing 24th August

Application form and further details can be located on the School's website:
www.doyrms.com
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or **call:** 01304 245023
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Medaille Trust

The Medaille Trust is looking to recruit to the following position:

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This service is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and unsociable hours may be required. You will receive additional payment for on-call duties and sleep ins.

Due to the nature of the post, confidentiality and discretion are of paramount importance. This role is restricted for females under the Occupational Requirement under Schedule 9 (part 1) of the Equality Act 2010 and subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check.

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Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEQM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

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Part time Hours: 30 per week Closing date: 21/08/2015
Salary: £19,000-20,000

Qualifications and Experience

- Registered Nurse 1st level or Dual Trained Registered Nurse
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Carolyn Flegg, Outpatients Manager on 07925 978812

Senior Staff Nurse – Margate

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Closing date: 21/08/2015
Salary: £26-28,000 per annum dependant on experience

Qualifications

- Registered Nurse 1st Level
- Minimum 2 years' experience, preferably in a surgical environment with a broad knowledge and understanding of multi specialist surgical procedures
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Mary Guarnieri, Ward Manager on 07786 173797

For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Justine Whittle, HR Assistant
Telephone: 01304 245943
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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice under Article 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure (England) Order 2015)

Proposed development at 'The Chances', Lughorse Lane, Hunton, ME15 0QS.

Mrs L Smith is applying to Maidstone B Council to renew the existing planning permission for the siting of 2 caravans at the above address. Any Owners/Tenants of the land may make representations to the Council at Maidstone House ME15 6QJ within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Signed S Harrison 8th August 2015

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Spitfires aim high for T20 triumph

Captain Sam Northeast on challenge of quarter-final clash

FREEDOM: Northeast says the team has been able to express themselves and play with freedom in T20

Pictures: ADY KERRY

Cricket

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

KENT's form in the fast-paced Natwest T20 competition has been at serious odds to their four-day County Championship performances this season. And now is time to make that discrepancy count.

While the team has struggled in the long form, and sat resolutely near, if not at, the bottom of the championship table, they've reached the final eight of the T20 contest.

And that should mean a huge crowd at the St Lawrence next Saturday as Lancashire Lightning stands in their way for a semi-final berth.

Skipper Sam Northeast told KoS if his team keep their focus and play as he knows they can, they should finally deliver something for their fans to cheer about this season..

"We've played a lot of great one day and short form cricket," said Northeast.

He continued: "We're backing our ability and I think we can do well. However, I'm not going to talk about winning anything right now, because now's not the time to put pressure on ourselves."

The 25-year-old batsman, who hails from Ashford and has led the team over Rob Key this season, may not like the idea of talking about a win, but Kent's performances in T20 have certainly shown the team has the potential to lift the trophy. So what's the secret to the county's success in white ball cricket? Northeast puts it down to a couple of things.

He said: "We've been able to just go out and really express ourselves. That has meant we've been playing with a lot of freedom which the guys like."

When asked which are the key players in the T20 squad, Northeast isn't going to be drawn on any particular team member.

He said: "The good thing about this team is that it hasn't been one person carrying the squad. There have been strong performances from every team member throughout the whole season. Hopefully we'll turn up on quarter-final day at the same time, and get a result."

When Kent meet their opponents, it'll be just days after the pair clashed in the One Day Cup.

Northeast said: "I don't think the fact that we'll have played days before meeting in T20 will really benefit either team. They may have a slight edge, as they will have been able to check out our ground, but I don't think it'll help them a lot."

Ticket scramble for Gallagher derby day clash

ONE of Kent's most eagerly anticipated non-league games takes place this week, as newly promoted Maidstone United come up against a refreshed Ebbsfleet United in the National League South.

The Stones will host at their Gallagher Stadium - something which means some fans will miss out on watching the game.

That's because work to expand capacity at the stadium won't be completed until November, with safety authorities demanding the game is fully ticketed.

Stones chief executive Bill Williams said: "On one hand it's great to make our home league debut with a Kent derby but on the other this fixture would have been ideal once all the works have been completed.

"I feel sure it's one of those games when we would have reached the 3,000 mark. I am grateful to the Ebbsfleet officials for their understanding and let's get our allocations sold and make this a game to remember."

HOSTS: The Stones will play host to Ebbsfleet at the Gallagher Stadium

The game comes just days after the county's major teams took to the field for the start of the season.

The Gills will be looking to build on the promising start last season of boss Justin Edinburgh, who'll be eyeing up his first full season in the hot seat. The team will take to the road to play Plymouth on Tuesday.

Freshly promoted Margate - also up to the National League South - will have a tough second game when they come up against last season's playoff losers Whitehawk on Tuesday night.

Margate boss Terry Brown told KoS that despite the tricky opponents he was still confident his side could get the win.

Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Jamie Weir** on **01233 653481**

Golfers battle it out for Lydd President's Cup

LYDD Golf Club saw a great turn out, with more than 70 players taking part in the club's annual President's Cups at Lydd Golf Club.

With The Open Championship providing inspiration for many of the county's golfers, the Lydd competition saw one of the biggest turnouts for many years.

The competition was played in ideal weather conditions leading to solid scores for many on the day. The men's section saw the best scores with several players in the red - the top three players were all new members of the club.

Winner of the men's competition was Craig Down, while Alan Read won the highly competitive veteran's trophy. The leading lady in the women's section was Jen Tollet.

A Lydd Golf Club spokesman said: "It was a fantastic day with a huge turnout. A big thank you must go to the president Mike Little for all his hard work and generosity in making it such a special day in our club's calendar."

CHAMP: Craig Down receives his trophy from the president

READY: The Stones say they'll be ready for their first game

Folkestone RFC gears up for promotion push

FOLKESTONE rugby club are getting ready for the start of their season, which begins on September 19 when they clash with Bromley in the London Three South East division.

The club says that training began at the start of July with the squad working hard to hone their match skills under the watchful eye of head coach Leigh Fitchie and his assistant Marc Spearpoint.

The Stones will be looking to better last year's performance when they ended the season in fifth. And Fitchie is likely to be under pressure to get results this year, as he takes the helm for the second season running.

According to the club, pre-season training has been going well, with between 50 and 60 players turning up every Tuesday and Thursday.

Despite that, the club is still looking for more options in its squad, appealing for any ex-players and newcomers to give it a try.

Training begins with a warm-up at 6.30pm with formal training kicking off at 7pm.

County cap for homegrown stars

KENT cricketers Daniel Bell-Drummond and Sam Billings were awarded county caps on Wednesday.

The pair were presented with their caps - numbered 211 and 212 - for consistent performances for the club on the pitch.

Billings took to Twitter to celebrate, writing: "Very proud day receiving my county cap; huge congratulations to Daniel Bell-Drummond as well!"

The club's current president, Lady Kingsdown, presented the caps during Canterbury Cricket Week. It concludes with the England women's team entertainment Australia in an Ashes Test match. For further details, turn to our picture special on page 12..

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